

2 NEWS

Whitehall trawl for the 'brightest and best' attacked as empire building □ Cost angers financially-squeezed criminal justice system

Irvine to spend £2.5m on think tank

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE Cabinet's most senior law officer, Lord Irvine, is to spend £2.5 million creating a policy think tank to help reinforce his role "on the cusp of government".

The controversial Lord Chancellor has ordered that his officials should trawl through Whitehall looking for the brightest and best of civil service talent to recruit the extra staff over the next six to 12 months, according to internal Whitehall papers seen by the Guardian.

His Cabinet colleagues will be less than keen to see key policy officials poached to bolster Lord Irvine's position in what will be widely seen as a classic exercise in empire building. It comes at a time when the Lord Chancellor is already under attack for behaving as a "medieval baron" and has been waging repeated battles in Cabinet over a range of policy initiatives.

The £2.5 million injection to boost the policy effort behind the Lord Chancellor is also being badly received within the criminal justice system where budgets are being squeezed.

It is believed a large part of one floor of his department's

Victoria Street headquarters, Selborne House, is to be refurbished — at extra cost to the £2.5 million — in preparation for the new staff who will be used for a big expansion of the existing policy group and to reinforce the Judicial Appointments Group.

The increase in policy capacity, as it is dubbed in Whitehall, is needed to meet the demanding work programme the Lord Chancellor has set for the next 12 months.

Staff already working for the Lord Chancellor are believed to have been angered by the decision to trawl Whitehall for the new recruits without giving them the chance to apply for the

posts first.

Under Lord Irvine, Tony Blair's legal mentor, the role of the Lord Chancellor's Department has been transformed from a sleepy Whitehall backwater concerned only with the way the courts are run and the appointment of judges, into a powerful engine within Government.

Lord Irvine sits on many key Cabinet committees and has repeatedly clashed with Cabinet colleagues, including the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, over policy initiatives such as privacy laws and the press, plans for an over-arching Ministry of Justice, and plans to deal with young offenders.

The Conservatives have also mounted a fierce campaign over the amount he has spent on a luxurious refurbishment of his Palace of Westminster apartment. This weekend saw a new row over his decision to borrow 87 works of art from the national galleries to decorate his grace-and-favour residence.

Lord Irvine is believed to have complained that he is the victim of a media vendetta, particularly after his advocacy of a "prior restraint" privacy law on the press. "They are out to get me," he reportedly told friends.

His plans to expand the policy group in his own depart-

ment will be seen as a further attempt to raise its profile. Under his predecessor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, it had a much quieter role.

The scale of the recruitment drive is so large in Whitehall terms that it has been decided to advertise the new posts in batches so as to minimise disruption and the pressure of work on existing staff.

But observers will be sceptical of Lord Irvine's ability to attract the brightest and best. He is already having trouble attracting a wide field of candidates for a new post of Director of Communications on a salary of up to £80,000 a year. So far seven applica-

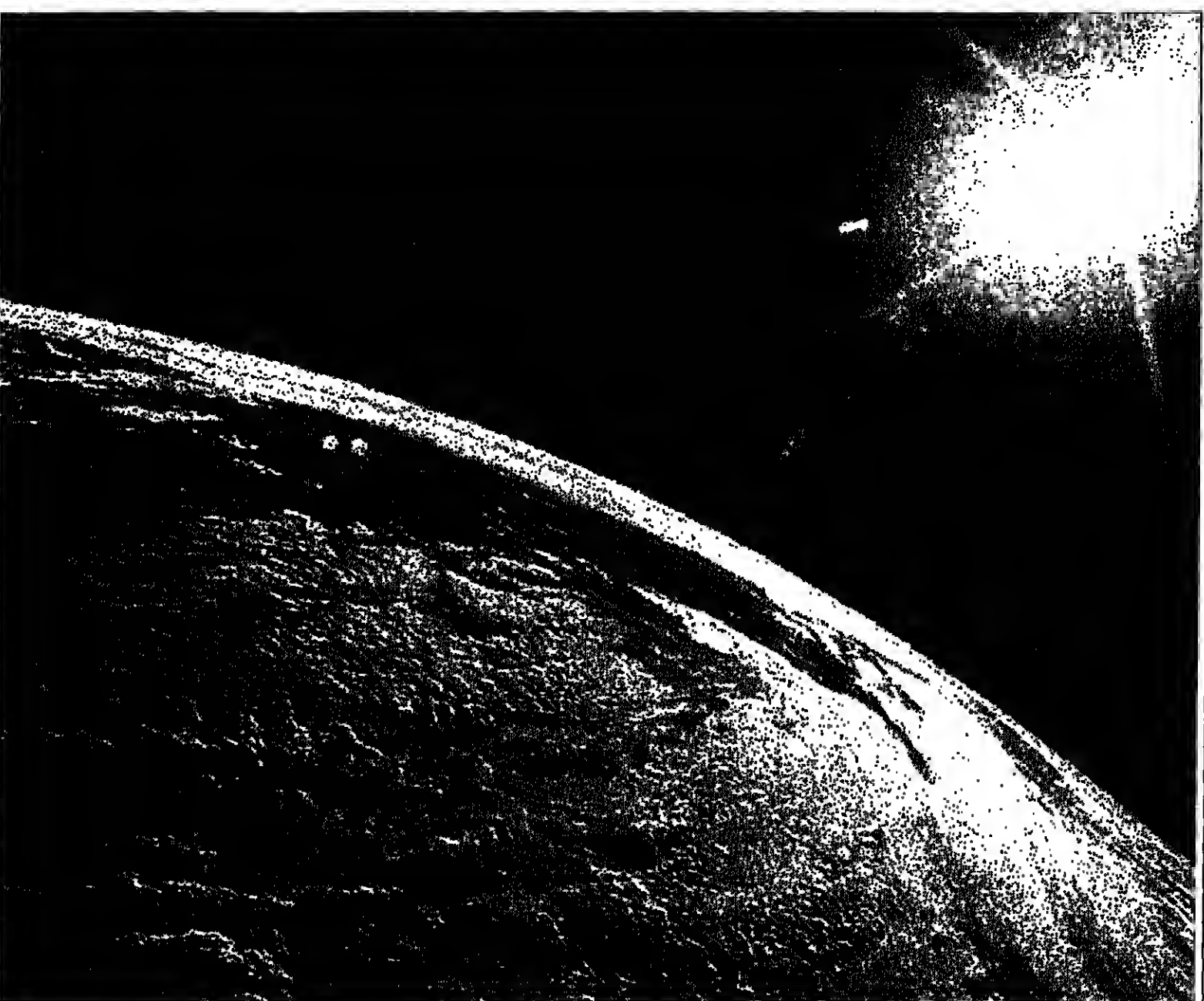
tions have been received of whom five will be interviewed next month.

The recruitment drive has also angered others working in the criminal justice system. "We had been told that everything in government is currently subject to the comprehensive spending review. Last week extra money had to be found for the prisons. Now extra money has been found for the Lord Chancellor's Department, and I can only hope that extra money will be found for the rest of the beleaguered criminal justice system," said Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers.



Lord Irvine: 'Waging battles over policy'

Seconds out on the big question



The new Stephen Hawking argument about the Earth's universe means philosophers now have to think about time having a beginning, but no end

Time for battle over birth of universe

Best-seller Hawking's latest theory criticised by cosmic 'high priest', reports **Tim Radford**

TWO masters of the universe are in mortal combat over the birth and survival of time itself. Two papers circulating among mathematicians and physicists are wrestling with the problem of why the universe might never end.

One the one hand, the wheelchair-bound cosmologist Stephen Hawking, probably the most famous living scientist, and his Cambridge colleague Neil Turok, argue in a paper to be published in Physics Letters that what happened in the first trillionth of a second of time may dictate an eternity of desolation for the universe.

On the other hand, the Russian physicist Andrei Linde, one of the giants of inflation theory — which tries to explain what happened inside that first small fraction of a second — has circulated a paper saying Hawking and

Turok have got it wrong: universes like ours are popping into existence all the time, so there is no point in trying to find a beginning, or an end.

At the bottom of the argument is a big problem. All the evidence says the universe has a beginning, and that includes space and time. The universe has been expanding for about 15 billion years. So was there a "before" this moment of creation? And will the expansion end?

Ten years ago, in the best-selling *A Brief History Of Time*, Hawking proposed that the universe exploded from a single point, in which the force of expansion was forever being slowed by the gravitational power of the matter in it. Which would win? Would the universe expand forever? Or would it collapse back on itself in a universal black hole?

In the past few months, as-



Stephen Hawking, author of *A Brief History Of Time*

cided by the conditions in that first moment of its making.

"They claim they get a cosmology with a low density in which a universe popped up from, literally, nowhere and expanded far faster than the speed of light, inflating itself. This inflation was a kind of anti-gravity. But, the argument says, since gravity is negative energy, then this anti-gravity must have represented positive energy. Einstein's theories say matter is just frozen energy, so all the stars and galaxies are condensed from the energy manufactured from nothing in this inflationary moment.

Inflation has given astro-

nomers 17 years of fun. Does it leave a universe that is critically balanced between expansion and collapse? Or one with "negative curvature" that will depend on future events?

"That's what Linde and Hawking and Turok are trying to understand. They are trying to get a variant of inflation that allows you to end up with a universe that is uniform but has negative curvature," said Sir Martin. "The new thing in the Hawking-Turok paper is to show you could do this rather more naturally."

The new Hawking argument means philosophers now have to think about time having a beginning but no end. It could be worse.

"Linde believes in what he calls eternal inflation," said Sir Martin. "Once you set a universe going, it inflates and sprouts new big bangs all the time. One of Linde's criticisms is that Hawking talks about the initial big bang, but there never really was an initial big bang. Once you set up one, it sprouts an infinite number of big bangs. If that is the case, then the initial conditions Steve worries about are lost in even deeper mists of cosmic history than we expected."

Row erupts over dome management

Dan Glatzer
and Michael White

PETER Mandelson last night refused to back down in the face of Tory threats to withdraw bipartisan support from the Millennium Dome.

Lord Rogers, the architect of the dome, will join criticism of the project's management on tonight's BBC Panorama — ahead of tomorrow's election campaign.

Francis Maude, the Conservative culture spokesman, accused Mr Mandelson of turning the project into a story of mismanagement, controversy and plunging credibility — and demanded that Tony Blair replace him as the responsible minister.

Mr Maude also insisted that William Hague gets equal billing at the ceremony to mark the eventual opening of the £758 million dome in Greenwich, south-east London.

The row threatened to overshadow tomorrow's unveiling of the dome's contents by the Prime Minister. The plans include a 6,000-seater "baby dome" alongside the main structure, to permit live performances. Revealed by Mr Mandelson yesterday, it prompted Mr Maude to complain that he is making it up as he goes along.

Last night the so-called Dome Secretary, Mr Mandelson, rejected the complaints and accused shadow ministers of attacking him because they dare not attack a project they created and which still enjoys the active involvement of Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister.

He said Mr Heseltine, the official Opposition representative, had been supportive

about every aspect of the dome.

"He has said I am doing my job as well as anyone could and that is enough for me," he said after predicting on BBC's Breakfast with Frost that the dome will earn millions of pounds for Britain.

Lord Rogers, the architect of the dome, will join criticism of the project's management on tonight's BBC Panorama — ahead of tomorrow's election campaign.

Yesterday's row came only days after Mr Mandelson had appealed for Tory support during a private briefing with Mr Maude. Last night he claimed the briefing was of

'It is a story of mismanagement and plunging credibility'

ferred well before Christmas, but only now accepted.

Mr Rogers' spokesman said that Mr Heseltine's impromptu support is a problem for Hague strategists. "Every time they try to whip up some dome-phobia Heseltine comes in and whips the rug from beneath them," said one Mr Heseltine will be with Mr Blair and John Prescott in Greenwich tomorrow.

But Mr Maude stood his ground. "It is increasingly clear that the dome is intended to be a New Labour monument and the launchpad for a Labour re-election campaign," he said.

What angered him was that at last Tuesday's Cabinet

Office meeting, Mr Mandelson had suggested the project was in "deep crisis" as potential sponsors were alienated by the furore surrounding it — yet hours later he was saying he had "no worries" about it.

Mr Maude said in a statement: "Potential sponsors are very worried because Mandelson appropriated the scheme, he hijacked it."

Only a pledge that Mr Hague would open the celebration alongside Tony Blair would bring the Tories back into the fold, he argued.

Bipartisan support remains important, not least because organisers need to raise £150 million from sponsors towards the total £758 million cost.

Yesterday the New Millennium Experience Company chairman and British Airways chief executive, Bob Ayling, said "a substantial figure of committed sponsorship" would be announced tomorrow.

Mr Mandelson said that there would be "at least" nine zones inside the dome. These will include not only the naked figure revealed last week, but a virtual brain in the mind zone, a transparent pyramid in the spirit zone, and a "valley of ladders" to illustrate "career paths" in the work zone.

But the most controversial was the appearance of a "baby dome" alongside Lord Rogers' gigantic structure, to play host to live performances.

Reg Kray fit to leave jail, say psychiatrists

continued from page 1

that on other forms of financial support, for example social security... In psychiatric terms he can be deemed entirely capable of independent living."

Clinical psychologist David Nias, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, said there were "a number of pointers to support Mr Kray's application".

Details of Kray's mental state inside also emerge. He cut his wrists in Long Lartin prison in 1981 when suffering from paranoia and had once thought his food was being poisoned. He tried to commit suicide in Parkhurst in 1982.

Kray was prescribed Valium three times a day in 1988 "because of pressure on the forehead". In 1989, he was described as "particularly dangerous when not on psychotropic medication" (Stelazine). He has also been prescribed the tranquilliser Diazepam.

A medical report for August 1997 suggests Kray "has shown no serious instances of violence over the past few years", although a



Reg Kray... dreams of recording studio in Norfolk

Dr Sugarman said there was "strong, intimidating eye contact (which) conveyed feelings of suppressed aggression or defensiveness with a paranoid and contemptuous flavour". He described him as "oddly grandiose" but concluded he "presents an ageing, polite man".

A probation officer is quoted as saying the "likelihood of further offences on release is probably minimal".

A letter from Kray's MP, Harry Cohen, is also submitted. It says: "I think that most of the public would agree that, although his crimes were awful, he has now effectively served his sentence."

Robert Kray, aged 38, said he saw no reason why his husband should not be released. A freelance media consultant, she met Kray in prison when she helped with publicity for a video he had made about his late twin, Reg.

Kray's solicitor, Mr Linn, said: "There is a conspiracy of inaction within the prison service and the Home Office. No one wants to take the responsibility of saying this man should be released. I think we have presented an overwhelming case to the parole board."

Kray was moved to Wayland, a category C jail in Norfolk, in August last year. This normally means parole follows within about two years.

Read the latest European news without using a phrasebook.

The Guardian

Playing long, hot and cool in the hall of the kings of jazz

Review

John Fordham

Paul Motian Band/
Kenny Wheeler Band
Barbican Hall, London

LIKE a penny whistle in St Paul's, the cool and plangent music of the Paul Motian and Kenny Wheeler bands could easily have been dwarfed by the vast space of the Barbican Hall. Yet this concert was a testament to the jazz axiom that music in the

right hands and the right spirit can be cool and hot at the same time.

Both ensembles showed a mixture of understated virtuosity, probing intelligence and massive experience that would be hard to beat on one stage. Every one of the seven musicians is a band-leader in his own right.

Wheeler's quartet came on first, and delivered the kind of music that made the British trumpeter's disc, *Angel Song*, one of last year's greatest jazz albums. His horn partner was a jazz legend, the alto saxophonist Lee Konitz — a man whose sound can suggest a

flute or even a violin as much as a sax. Bass virtuoso Dave Holland and the inimitable guitar stylist Bill Frisell (a musician who can suggest Ry Cooder, Jim Hall, Jim Hendrix and Hank Marvin in the space of a few bars) completed the ensemble.

As on the disc, the sound was airy, spacious and fragile as china. Sometimes the lines had an almost baroque clarity and deliberation, often the musicians would echo and resolve each other's thoughts, and the constantly changing textures gave vibrant life to a reserved and oblique style.

Holland's soft, fluttering fig-

ures on bass (he was miked so low as to sound all but unplugged) formed a hypnotic combination with Frisell's peeling chords and softly squirming dissonances, and Wheeler and Konitz were fascinating, whether playing separately or together.

Konitz was pure and still, toying with inflections and rhythmic manipulations in long, legato improvisations. Wheeler swung effortlessly between trombone-like low notes, and soft, gliding squeals and his constructions were as taut as sonnets.

The music took its yearning, faintly bluesy pieces that

recalled Ornette Coleman, soft, amiable swing like old Chet Baker/Gerry Mulligan tunes, lonely refrains that might have come from *Sketches Of Spain*.

American drummer Paul Motian's band had one fewer player but made more noise. They played with more one-touch spontaneity, eschewed sheet music, and were more conventionally jazzy, despite a good many free-collective passages.

Motian, who used to play with piano legend Bill Evans, has a unique drumming style, seemingly operating in a parallel universe to his part-

ners but with a psychic link playing almost entirely in the straight (isb) jazz style he learned years ago, and, remarkably, performed the complementary roles of part-time bassist, pianist and guitarist.

The great saxophonist, Joe Lovano, wound himself inventively between the two, with intricate long lines that seemed to be drawn from some bottomless well of fresh sax phrasing. On a handful of standard ballads, he reminded his listeners why he's one of the contemporary scene's invincible maestros.

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the page.

4 BRITAIN

Auditors look at how NHS deal lost £14m

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

AN INVESTIGATION begins today into how senior civil servants lost £14 million for the National Health Service by tearing up an agreement to share profits from Britain's most successful and luxurious hospital redevelopment scheme.

The National Audit Office is to send an urgent report to MPs on how the NHS missed out on the deal for the conversion of the Brompton hospital — a listed Tudor-style building in Kensington, west London — into apartments costing up to £3.6 million each.

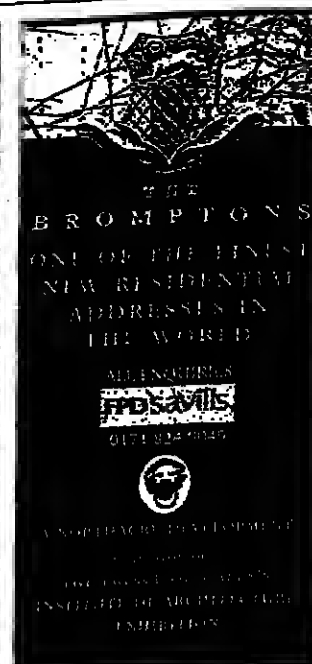
The hospital was sold for £18.7 million five months before the general election. It is now being converted into 73 flats for £90 million. Forty-one have been snapped up by the wealthy, including former

world racing champion Jackie Stewart, before they are even finished. The car parking spaces are being sold for £35,000 each.

The developers, Northacre, who sponsor the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture exhibition, are coy about the profits but admit they have not put more than £50 million into the project, including the purchase price. This leaves a profit of around £40 million for the five shareholders behind the scheme.

The hospital was originally put up for sale in 1994 for £19 million. An elaborate system was devised to protect the NHS should there be a booming property market, including a profit share from higher prices and extra money if more flats were built on the site. This would have brought in an extra £14 million at the present sale price.

Terry Clemence, a millionaire property developer, offered to buy the hospital through his company, Tremerton. Just before the agreement was to be concluded he is reported to have reduced his offer. Officials renegotiated it back to £18.7 million but dropped the profit-sharing



Shape of things to come: A builder's hoarding (left) shows what the old Brompton hospital will look like and (above) a sign on the site proclaims its desirability

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN ARLES

deals in order to close the sale. The development was sold on for about £20 million, to Northacre. This year's property boom has led to a huge demand for such apartments. The scheme is being marketed by Savills estate agents as The Bromptons — "not just a place to live but a way of life" and "one of the finest addresses in the world".

Officials at the Department of Health are likely to object to the auditors' inquiry into the dropping of the profit-sharing deals. A spokesman said: "We can confirm that the hospital was sold for £18.7 million in December 1996. We took advice from the estate agents advising the NHS on the sale and from the district

valuer and decided not to include a clawback of future profits in the sale price. To do so would have meant that the NHS was involved in property speculation."

John Hunter, one of the five shareholders behind Northacre, said the suggestion that some £50 million had been put into the project was "about right".

Mr Clemence decided not to comment on the deal, and the NAO did not want to comment on its inquiry.

Image-conscious royal family may get spin doctor

Lucy Patton

THE Queen is considering recruiting a spin doctor to try to improve the royal family's image.

Buckingham Palace yesterday confirmed there would be changes in its communications strategy in the light of a MORI poll conducted at the end of last year on the family's behalf.

But a spokeswoman described as highly speculative reports that a royal director of communications would be hired on a £150,000 salary.

"The findings of the survey were presented to the Way Ahead Group meeting last week," she said. The group is made up of senior members of the royal family and of their staffs and meets twice a year. "Among many things discussed was the view that more resources had to be allocated on communications."

She said the royal family had wanted the survey to be conducted in privacy and that they intended the results to remain confidential.

The palace refused to confirm claims in the Sunday Times that the MORI report showed that focus groups believed the royal family was seen as:

- ☐ not understanding
- ☐ wasteful
- ☐ not good value for money
- ☐ out of touch
- ☐ not associated with compassion
- ☐ remote
- ☐ badly advised
- ☐ not genuine.

On the positive side, it was claimed that they were seen as:

- ☐ trustworthy
- ☐ an integral part of British society
- ☐ respected and professional in executing their duties.

A MORI spokesman last night said he could neither confirm nor deny the Sunday

Times report. He would not comment on what action MORI would take after the apparent leak of the confidential findings.

The public relations specialist Max Clifford said of the appointment of a royal spin doctor: "About time too. I think it was the funeral of Princess Diana that brought it home to them just how out of touch they were."

"In their own cosseted world, they thought they were as popular as they had been hundreds of years ago. They hadn't realised what was going on."

He said the Queen should appoint a director of communications who was in touch with the real world, "not someone from their own privileged set... It will have to be

'In their cosseted world they thought they were as liked as they had been'

someone who is prepared to listen."

Asked if he would consider the post, he said: "Not in a million years."

The Way Ahead Group meeting is believed to have been attended by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York and the Princess Royal and senior aides.

It was the first time the group — which plans royal diaries as well as considering longer-term issues — had met at Buckingham Palace. They usually meet at Sandringham in Norfolk or Balmoral in Scotland.

The palace spokeswoman said reports that it would use headhunters to find the right candidate were also highly speculative.

Phenomenon file Citroën Xantia



"It had all these... things" stutters

incoherent eyewitness "I've never seen

so much equipment for £12,740."

The Citroën Xantia Temptation 2 from £12,740* Features include:

- + Air conditioning. + Remote central locking. + Power steering. + Alarm. + Electric front windows. + Driver's airbag.
- + 6 speaker RDS radio cassette. + Front fog lights. + Body coloured bumpers and mirrors. + 16 valve engine.
- + One of a range of limited edition Xantias available now. + With a choice of petrol or diesel. + Saloon or estate.

The Citroën Winter Phenomenon

"NOW THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY YEAR."

For more information call our Winter Hotline 0800 262 262.

*PRICE IS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. CAR SHOWN LIMITED EDITION CITROËN XANTIA 1.8i 16V TEMPTATION 2 SALOON, £12,740 ON THE ROAD. XANTIA TEMPTATION 2 TURBO DIESEL SALOON £13,490 ON THE ROAD. XANTIA TEMPTATION 2 ESTATE PRICED FROM £13,490 ON THE ROAD. ON THE ROAD PRICES INCLUDE £890 FOR VAC DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND TWELVE MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE. OPTIONAL METALLIC PAINT SHOWN AT EXTRA COST (£240). LIMITED EDITION MODELS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

The Guardian Weekly

Subscribe now and let
The Guardian Weekly
bring the world to your door
Britain's best international news weekly

Subscription rates	6 months	1 year	2 years
United Kingdom.....	£27	£49	£89
Europe, U.S.A., Canada....	£30	£55	£99
Rest of the world.....	£34	£63	£115

to: The Guardian Weekly, 164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2RR, England

Mail The Guardian Weekly for ☐ 6 months ☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years to:

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Subscription ordered by.....

Address if not as above.....

.....

I enclose payment of £..... Tick box if this is a renewal order ☐

by ☐ Standing cheque drawn on U.K. bank payable to The Guardian Weekly

☐ Debit my Visa/MasterCard/American Express account no:.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Prescott highlights 'green' sheen

Peter Hetherington and Michael White

JOHN Prescott will today move to bolster the Government's green credentials ahead of next week's 'Countryside March' on London by announcing new restrictions on house-building on greenfield sites.

With the Council for the Protection of Rural England complaining that the Deputy Prime Minister's actions have so far failed to match his words, Mr Prescott will declare that 60 per cent of new houses should be built on 'brownfield' sites, renovated urban land.

The target is 60 per cent, but ministers have decided that going too far beyond it would impose excessive costs on builders required to clean contaminated land. It may not be enough to appease rural lobbyists, who have other grudges to vent at Saturday's Hyde Park rally in central London which is expected to attract more than 200,000 people.

Amenity groups are outraged that Mr Prescott, who heads the Department of the Environment, has authorised the biggest incursion into the green belt since the last war by approving plans for 10,000 new homes near Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Two North East Labour MPs — Jim Cousins (Newcastle Central) and Chris Mullin (Sunderland South) have criticised Mr Prescott for authorising

rising 11,500 houses in Newcastle upon Tyne's green belt. His department has also told West Sussex council to increase by a third to 50,700 the number of new dwellings the county must accommodate. It is now seeking a judicial review.

Mr Prescott's pledge to restrict building in the countryside will be further tested shortly when his department responds to a planning inquiry inspector's recommendation that Devon should accommodate 95,000 new homes between 1991 and 2011 — 4,000 fewer than a target proposed by his department.

Any government restrictions, or procrastination, could bring ministers into conflict with the building industry, which lost patience with the former environment secretary, John Gummer. The building industry has been confused by conflicting signals from Mr Prescott's department. Department sources have suggested that ministers plan to increase the number of new homes needed by 2011 from an estimated 4.4 to 5.5 million.

Mr Prescott has responded by saying his department wanted to move away from a 'predict and provide' approach to a more flexible strategy, which would encourage more building in cities on reclaimed land — though the House Builders' Federation insists that demand for such sites is often low.

Leader comment, page 9



How brown was my valley... A former gas works site in Greenwich, south-east London, location of the proposed Millennium Village development

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOWMAN

Countryside 'faces unsustainable burden' as thousands flee cities to seek rural idyll in the shires

Ruarish Nicoll

THOUSANDS of people are fleeing England's cities every year to find a better life in the shires, according to new research. In the first survey of its kind, researchers at the University of Newcastle found that while 3,200 people move into cities every week, 4,900 pass them heading the other way. The weekly loss of 1,700

people from the urban areas is putting unsustainable pressure on the countryside. The survey of 68 metropolitan districts and London boroughs, called Urban Exodus, was carried out for the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). "Stemming the urban exodus needs to be at the heart of any strategy for improving the quality of urban life and reducing pressure on the countryside," said Tony Bur-

ton, CPRE's assistant director. London is hemorrhaging people, losing twice as many as the rest of England's big cities combined. It also takes prime position in attracting people from the country. Most Londoners move away because of the attraction of a "rural idyll", leaving the suburbs because of perceived urban decay. But towns like Barnsley, Wigan and Sunderland have

done the best job in stemming the flow. Mr Burton believes the Government needs to tackle the problem to relieve the pressure for new housing and roads in the countryside. It would require only a relatively small change in the numbers to bring the migration flows into balance. Better education, health care and public safety should be provided, and developers encouraged to use urban sites.

Sale mystery of Blackpool Tower

MP anxious to get to bottom of rumours on landmark's future

David Ward

THE tower which did for the Fylde coast almost as much as Eiffel's did for Paris was bathed in sunshine and shrouded in mystery yesterday.

Speculation was mounting over whether the 619ft Blackpool Tower, complete with sumptuous hall, Wur-litzer organ, aquarium, Jungle Jim's Adventure Playground and hundreds of slot machines, was up for sale.

One of the tower's MPs failed to get to the bottom of the mystery, which may even

defeat the prophetic powers of Madame Lena Petrangelo, the 104-year-old tower's long-serving fortune teller.

Rumours have circulated in the City of London that the owners — the First Leisure group, now headed by Michael Grade, former chief executive of Channel 4 — may want to dispose of the structure as it concentrates on its more profitable bars, night spots, bowling alleys and fitness clubs. It has already indicated that it plans to withdraw from its bingo halls, which have not had full houses since the National Lottery started.

Mr Grade's uncle, Lord De-font, acquired the tower, one of Britain's top 10 paid-for attractions, for £6 million from Truisthouse Forte. First Leisure's resorts division, which operates the tower, has recently reported profits of almost £11 million on sales of £43 million.

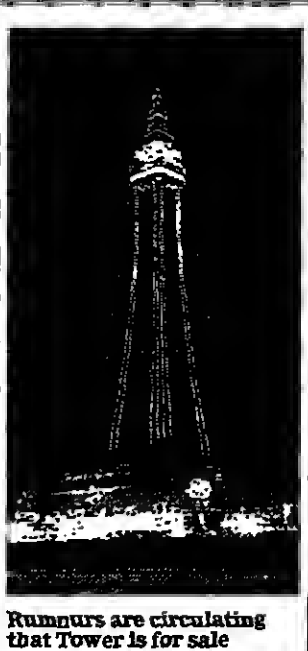
But reports yesterday suggested that Mr Grade had contacted a number of likely buyers as he planned how to reorganise the company, and that the sale would be part of a package including Blackpool's three piers, piers at Llandudno and Eastbourne and a caravan park in south Wales. The package is thought to be worth about £90 million.

Gordon Marsden, Labour MP for Blackpool South, said

he would make inquiries about the future of the tower, the piers and the Winter Gardens conference centre. Whoever was responsible for them "should be investing in them and developing them", he said. "It is important that the tower continues to be a conference and leisure centre."

"Michael Grade was in Blackpool at the end of October, when he was full of grand ideas. I shall be formally writing to First Leisure to ask for their comments on today's reports. This is the first I have heard of any planned sale."

A First Leisure spokesman said yesterday that the company never commented on speculative stories. "But as far as I know the sale of the tower is not on the agenda."



Rumours are circulating that Tower is for sale

Tory hint at 'regional Lords'

Ancram insists reformed upper house must still have real power

Michael White Political Editor

THE Tories yesterday moved to outflank Labour over reform of the House of Lords, when their constitutional spokesman hinted that the upper house could be regionally based — and even elected by proportional representation — as long as it still had enough power to stand up to the Commons.

Ahead of William Hague's admission tomorrow that his revised brand of Conservatism may embrace a

federal system — with a parliament for England, though not the English regions — his spokesman, Michael Ancram, claimed on BBC's On The Record that Labour was not seeking consensus on reform of the Lords, but playing politics.

"They want to throw some red meat to their left-wingers, therefore they want to get rid of the hereditary peerage in the Lords."

"We actually think the House of Lords works quite well despite the fact that it defeated us on a very large number of occasions when we were in government,"

he argued — a claim Labour rejects, since embarrassing defeats were relatively few in the Thatcher-Major era.

Mr Ancram said any revised Lords would "have an independent framework — it's got to hold the Government to account," and might include a regional dimension with PR if it were not to become "the biggest politically-appointed quango that has ever been seen in this country."

Anna McCurley, a former Scottish Tory MP, yesterday said she was joining the Liberal Democrats because of Mr Hague's attitude over Europe. He had missed his chance to end "the dark and doctrinaire" period, she told STV's Platform programme.

News in brief

£250,000 for royal desk

The desk where King Edward VIII signed his abdication papers sold for £253,360 to an anonymous buyer yesterday at Sotheby's New York saleroom.

Its sale — for more than eight times its estimated price — took the total on the third day of the auction of property once owned by the Duke and Duchess of Windsor to about £3.8 million, according to a Sotheby's spokesman.

A portrait of the former Turkish president Kemal Ataturk, which had an estimate of £120-£260, went for £21,000. The Windsors' estate was left to charity, and was bought in 1986 by Mohamed Al Fayed. Proceeds will go to children's charities.

Motorist robbed at knifepoint

A young man was bundled into the boot of his car and taken on a terrifying drive after being robbed of £300 at knifepoint as he withdrew money from a bank cashpoint in west London, police said yesterday.

The victim, in his early twenties, spent about 40 minutes in the boot of the Volvo, which was involved in an acci-

dent as he was trapped inside on Friday night. He was only freed when the car was abandoned and police, called to investigate, heard him banging from the boot.

Older jobless 'may lose out'

Older unemployed people risk being ignored in the Government's determination to find work for the young jobless and lone parents, a report today warns.

Falling unemployment means ministers have the cash available to be more selective in their welfare-to-work policy, particularly in economic blackspots, according to the report by the Institute for Public Policy Research, the centre-left think tank. Current policies leave a "clear gap" in respect of areas of severe, long-term unemployment, the report says. There are too few private-sector employers to take advantage of existing wage subsidies. — David Brindle

Seven share lottery jackpot

Seven ticketholders shared Saturday's £8.7 million National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 18, 37, 25, 45, 27 and the bonus was 10.

Catch the Millennium before it catches you.

Isn't it amazing how so many companies seem to have been caught unawares by the impending Millennium. Don't let this happen to you. Buy a PC from Dan Technology and we guarantee Millennium compliance. Add to this the finest Quality Assurance systems and first class technical support, and you'll see that there's never been a better time to prepare your business for 2000 and beyond with Dan Technology. Buying direct from Dan means realistic prices and better after sales care.

Take for example the Dantum 2/233M98 with Intel Pentium®II processor and a host of business essentials for both speed and performance at only £1,130 + VAT (inc. delivery).

So catch the Millennium before it catches you and start thinking outside the box. Order today for speedy delivery, or phone for more information about the complete Dan range and our built-to-order service.



"Dan can truly be said to be the best organisation at delivering excellence in customer satisfaction" PC Magazine, Aug 1997

Call our sales staff on 0181 830 1100, Fax 0181 830 1122 and quote code 023/2

Showrooms open Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm

at Ironbridge Close, Great Central Way, London NW10 0NW and 10-11 Feast Field Town Street, Horsforth, Leeds (Tel: 0113 258 1200)

Dan Technology systems prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. All prices are subject to Dan Technology terms and conditions. A copy of which may be obtained on request. Dan Technology is a trade name of Dan Technology Ltd, which is a subsidiary of Dan Technology Holdings plc. All trademarks acknowledged. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of the Intel Corporation.

dan
Technology

Dantum 2/233M98 £1,130 + VAT

233MHz Pentium® II Processor
512K Floating Point Cache Memory
32 MB SDRAM
ATI 4444 AGP 32MB Video Card
17" Dan Monitor (16" wide area)
3.5" 5.25" 3.5" Floppy Drives, 24 MB EIDE CD-ROM
Sound Blaster 16 Soundcard, Modem
Dan Advanced Speakers
1 Parallel & 2 Port Serial Ports, Mid Tower Case
1.44MB Floppy Drive, Windows 95 Keyboard
Windows 95
PLUS Microsoft Works and Truevision GSE
£1,035.00 inc. VAT and delivery
Order ref: 023/2

Thinking outside the box

We give new businesses something money can't buy.

MORE TIME.

Our Business Extra package gives new businesses something no other bank offers — discounted banking for a full three years.

Go to where you could pay all charges after 18 months.

Call now for more information and you'll get our invaluable e-Start Pack and the less-risky Guide for Small Businesses.

And you'll also get the 40-line there's a bank built only committed to the success of your business.

For your FREE pack call

0800 056 0056

Ref: G2M1, www.lloydsbank.co.uk

Lloyds Bank Business Banking

Business Extra package available to new business start-ups with anticipated turnover of under £2 million. See full details in Starter Pack. Service may be reviewed and monitored. Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

"I used to play for Saracens and I have set about tackling the problems at this school like I would plan the tactics for a rugby match."

The head of Phoenix High School

G2 cover story

Iraq crisis

Cracks appear in alliance

Tactics

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

BRITISH and United States thinking on the Iraq crisis is "very much the same", Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, insisted yesterday, but there were persistent signs that if the mission to Baghdad by the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, does not produce a deal clearly acceptable to both, simmering tactical disagreements could boil over.

Mr Cook used a BBC interview to deny reports of a rift with Washington over how to

handle Saddam Hussein. He emphasised that both countries supported a package that would get UN weapons inspectors back to uninterrupted work.

"I have maintained close contact with [US secretary of state] Madeleine Albright throughout the past two weeks, speaking almost daily," he said. "Our thinking is very much the same."

Tony Blair and President Bill Clinton were consulting each other on the crisis again last night, but their efforts to hold to a common line have come under strain in private, and those strains could emerge publicly within days.

The US has said it reserves the right to use air strikes if the Iraqi response is inadequate. "It is possible that [Annan] will come with some-

thing we don't like, in which case we will pursue our national interest," Mrs Albright told ABC television yesterday.

Britain, by contrast, still insists that whatever Mr Annan brings from Baghdad it will submit a new resolution to the UN Security Council.

Britain wants to stress its positive attitude to the UN, unlike the US

Foreign Office officials repeated last night that it would be "politically useful" either to codify Iraq's compliance or to secure the widest possible backing for "condemning Iraqi defiance... to show that any action taken has the support of an interna-

tional consensus". Crucially, this makes no mention of punitive military action, almost certain to be opposed by Russia, China and France, the other three permanent council members.

Backing such a resolution would place Britain between the US and the other mem-

bers, delaying its own readiness to use force and isolating Washington. Despite being the only country preparing for an active military role alongside the US, Britain wants to underline its positive attitude to the UN, in contrast to the US administra-

tion, which owes more than \$1 billion (2600 million) in unpaid dues and is widely criticised as unilateralist.

Last week British diplomats complained of a lack of US interest when the permanent five's UN ambassadors met Mr Annan to discuss the brief for his mission. It fell to Sir John Weston, the British envoy, to lay out the "agreed advice", as the US joined the consensus only at the last minute.

Mr Cook gets on well with Mrs Albright and speaks to her regularly — a hot line to the state department sits on his desk.

But he has complained privately of the complexity of the decision-making process in Washington, where rival departments do not have the "on-message" discipline that

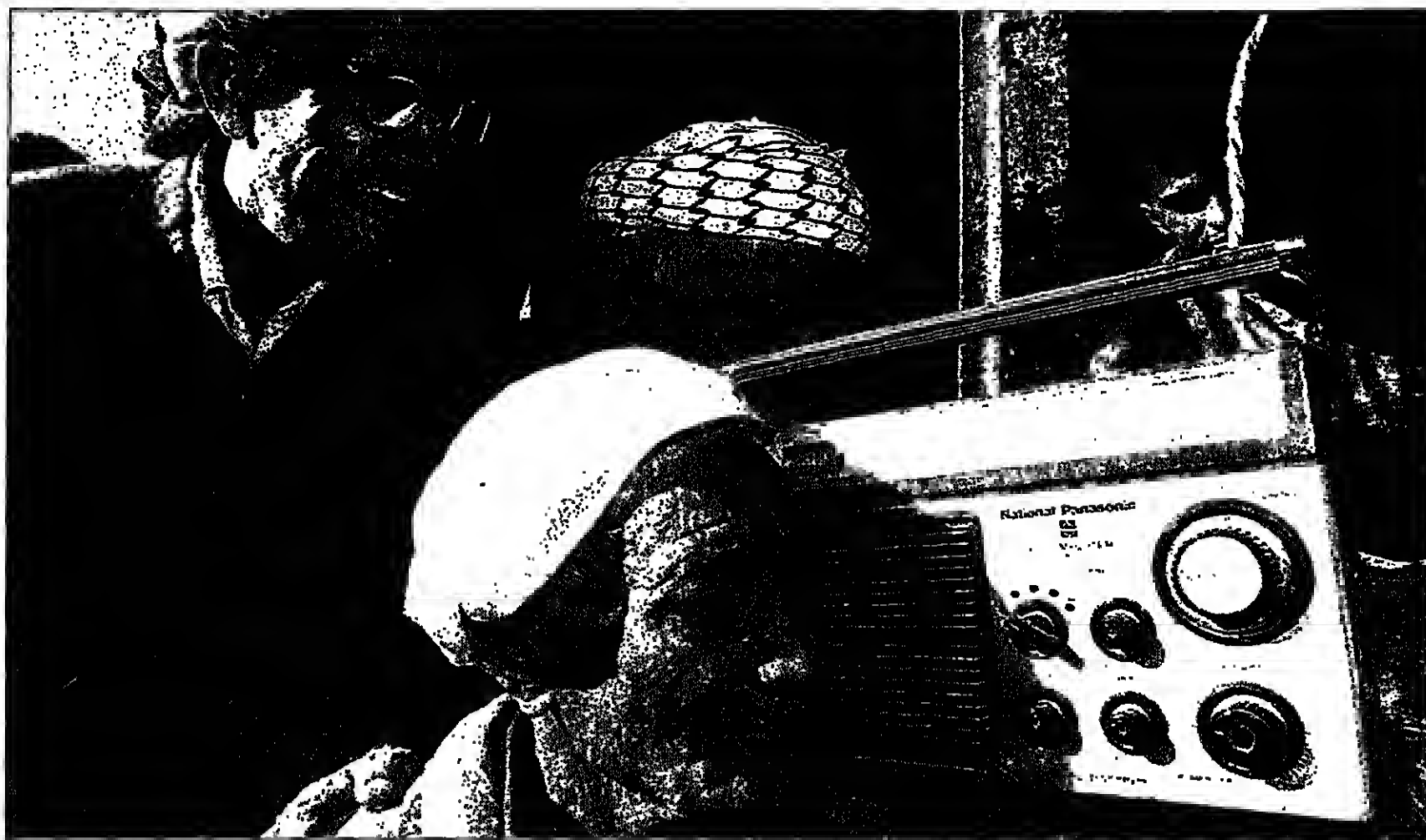
New Labour tries to impose on ministers.

Yet at several key points in the crisis foreign diplomats have perceived a clear difference between the instinctively pro-American Mr Blair, keen to sustain his special personal relationship with Mr Clinton, and his less gung-ho Foreign Secretary, Downing Street was quick to dismiss as "game-playing" the first reports of Russian compromise proposals put to Iraq, which the Foreign Office found "interesting".

Yesterday Mr Cook told the BBC that if the Iraqi leader "really is willing this time to co-operate", sanctions could go "in the fairly near future".

Foreign Office officials also disapproved of the way US strategy is more openly discussed in the media.

Iraqi citizens listen to the news outside a cafe in Baghdad yesterday, as crisis talks continued between UN chief Kofi Annan and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein

PHOTOGRAPH:
KARIM SAHIB

Slogans evoke spirit of Vietnam protesters

Opposition

Mark Tran in New York

PROTESTERS in the United States yesterday bearded the secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, as she entered the ABC television studio in

Washington for a news programme.

They chanted: "1-2-3-4, we don't want no racist war," a slogan reminiscent of those shouted 30 years ago when students formed the vanguard of a vast anti-war movement that dogged the Nixon administration during the Vietnam war.

Now, as they try to build support for a possible strike against Iraq, senior Clinton

administration officials are discovering a new generation of rowdy and disrespectful anti-war protesters.

This nascent anti-war movement burst into the spotlight last week at a meeting at Ohio State University in Columbus. A trip to hearland America by three of Mr Clinton's top foreign policy advisers turned into a fiasco as students shouted and jeered the trio.

Those watching on television must have felt as if they were in a time warp. Only the long hair and hippie beads were missing.

The critics were not just students shouting "smart bombs, stupid policy" and "draft Clinton". There was

the veteran who lost a son in Vietnam, who asked: "Are we willing to send troops in and finish the job or are we going to do it half-assed?"

Others posed the question the administration has yet to answer convincingly. If the US does bomb, what happens when the United Nations inspectors have been thrown out and Saddam Hussein is still in power?

Later in the week, it was the turn of Bill Richardson, the US ambassador to the UN, to run the gauntlet. Protesters shouted him down at the University of Minnesota, forcing him to abandon his speech. About 150 demonstrators burst into the building, chanting "no blood for oil" and

"hands off Iraq". This is not the kind of spirited backing the administration is hoping for.

The polls reflect division in public opinion. A CNN survey last week showed 50 per cent of respondents were against bombing Iraq. Only 41 per cent were in favour.

Lack of public support in a war can corrode White House morale. In his memoirs the former national security adviser Henry Kissinger writes evocatively of the White House's sense of siege, psychologically and even physically, as hundreds of thousands of students descended upon Washington for candlelit marches against the Vietnam war.

One night President Nixon, accompanied only by his valet, drove to the Lincoln Memorial to meet the protesting students. The encounter was not a success. He treated them to a clumsy and condescending speech.

Unlike Nixon, Bill Clinton is a peerless communicator. But he has been conspicuously absent from the charm offensive. His only address on Iraq was a distracted, unconvincing performance at the Pentagon.

While the administration badly needs him to buttress public opinion on Iraq, Mr Clinton has become increasingly isolated as his problems with the Monica Lewinsky situation accumulate.

Nato new boys line up with US

East Europe

Ian Traynor in Bonn

WHILE Washington has had to struggle to marshal west European allies behind possible air strikes on Iraq, the three new Nato members in eastern Europe are willing to line up with the United States and Britain.

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, all eager to prove their mettle, are poised to commit forces and facilities to a Gulf task force if asked to do so. They contributed chemical detection experts, medical staff and logistics support to the US-led alliance in 1990-91.

"When you are a member of an international community, it is not enough to share values. You have to be ready to take risks and meet your moral and ethical obligations," the Polish president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, said recently.

In Warsaw on Friday, the Nato commander in Europe, US General Wesley Clark, voiced American gratitude for Polish backing in the crisis.

On Thursday, parliament in Warsaw passed enabling legislation — by 237 votes to 16, with 134 abstentions — for the dispatch of 216

army specialists in chemical weapons detection.

Earlier last week, the Hungarian parliament also agreed to make its air bases and airspace available to the US and to send 50 medical personnel to the Gulf, if required.

The Czechs, who had highly regarded chemical experts deployed in the last Gulf war, are also sympathetic to a US request for support.

In Washington last week, the foreign ministers of all three countries were pressed by the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, for their support.

"I don't doubt it would be Czech fighter planes attacking Saddam Hussein's palace. But I believe we are capable of providing some kind of support in logistics or other areas," the Czech president, Vaclav Havel, said last week.

"If we want others to guarantee our safety, then we must be able to guarantee the safety of others as well," he added.

There is overwhelming public support in all three countries for joining Nato. There also appears to be a broad consensus for involvement in the Gulf, if this is requested by the US, as the price of membership of the alliance.

But the hard left and nationalists are noisily opposing the Americans.

Arafat arrests Fatah activists

Israel

David Sharrock in Jerusalem

THE Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, tightened his crackdown on demonstrations in support of Saddam Hussein at the weekend, ordering the arrest of 200 members of his own Fatah party.

The arrested activists allegedly defied a Palestinian Authority ban on pro-Iraq rallies, which came into effect last week. The authority said images of burning American and Israeli flags were harming national interests.

An Israeli policeman and eight Palestinians were injured in clashes in the West Bank city of Ramallah at the weekend.

Radio and television stations in the West Bank have also been hit by the ban. Palestinian police arrested seven journalists from the popular Shepherd television station in Bethlehem who held a sit-in on Friday in protest at its closure for broadcasting pro-Saddam material.

Fatah's West Bank leader, Marwan Barghout, said his movement's decision to support Iraq was an independent one "with no connection to the Palestinian authority".

But the party's involvement in organising the demonstra-

tions, which brought thousands on to the streets at the weekend, suggests that Mr Arafat is treading a thin line to maintain control of the grassroots mood.

In Jordan, armoured cars were deployed in the southern city of Ma'an after two days of rioting and exchanges of gunfire between police and residents. The violence broke out after a man was killed in a pro-Saddam protest.

The Israeli infrastructure minister, Ariel Sharon, was advised by Jordan to postpone a visit to its capital, Amman, because of the continuing unrest.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government opened another 12 gas-kit distribution centres yesterday, some of which will be open 24-hours a day.

New Patriot missile batteries will arrive from the US this week to combat the threat posed by Scud missiles. The prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was considering a proposal last night to distribute antibiotic treatments to residents of the coastal city of Haifa, as well as those in the north and centre of the country, in case of attack.

The contradiction of minister's statements that the chances of such attacks are slim and the extensive preparations has left many Israelis confused. Some believe that the government is milking the potential danger to extract assistance and equipment from the West.

News in brief

Israel bombards Hizbullah targets

ISRAELI warplanes launched 16 air strikes and fired almost 40 rockets at Hizbullah guerrillas in southern Lebanon yesterday, security sources said.

The attacks set off artillery duels between the two sides along the length of the border security strip controlled by Israeli forces and their local militia allies, the sources said. There was no word on casualties.

An Israeli army spokesman in Jerusalem said: "Israeli air force warplanes... attacked terrorist targets in the area of Jabal Soud (in Iqlim al-Tanfah) in south Lebanon. The pilots reported precise hits on the targets. All of our planes returned safely to base." — Reuters, Nabatieh, Lebanon.

Algerians killed in ambushes

AN ARMED group attacked and killed 19 people travelling in a truck on a deserted mountain road in the Ziam Mansouri area of Jijel province in eastern Algeria, newspapers reported yesterday.

It was the second such ambush reported in recent days. In a similar attack, also on Friday, Muslim militants killed 27 soldiers near the town of Bogini in Tizi-Ouzou province, setting off an explosive in the road and then firing on their truck, the independent dailies El Watan and Liberté reported.

No one claimed responsibility but suspicion fell on Muslim militants. — AP, Algiers.

War suspect to surrender

A BOSNIAN Serb wanted for trial by The Hague war crimes tribunal will surrender on Tuesday, his lawyer was quoted as saying yesterday.

Simo Zaric will turn himself in to the authorities of the Bosnian Serb republic in Samac so that he can go to The Hague to prove his innocence, his lawyer said.

Mr Zaric had been expected to turn himself in last weekend together with Miroslav Tadic, aged 60, and Milan Simic, aged 40, the first Bosnian Serbs to surrender voluntarily to Nato peacekeepers. — Reuters, Belgrade.

Clinton agents' secrets safe

THE United States justice department has concluded that secret service agents are legally shielded from having to tell prosecutors in the Monica Lewinsky investigation everything they saw or heard while protecting President Bill Clinton, the Washington Post reported on Saturday.

But unidentified officials quoted by the newspaper stressed that the justice department was still negotiating with the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, to determine whether there were any special circumstances under which agents might give limited testimony. — Reuters, Washington.

'Monster' suspect found dead

A 73-YEAR-OLD farmhand who was tried as the "monster of Florence" was found dead yesterday in his house outside the city. Pietro Pacciani was convicted in 1994 of the murder of seven couples and sentenced to life in prison. An appeal court acquitted him in 1996 but Italy's supreme court then ordered a new trial, which would have started in October. He apparently died of a heart attack.

Seven couples camping or sitting in cars in the Tuscan countryside were killed between 1974 to 1985. Some of the victims were mutilated. — AP, Florence.

Gunmen open fire in Pakistan

GUNMEN on a motorbike opened fire in a Karachi street yesterday, killing seven people and seriously wounding two, medical sources said. One of the dead was an 18-year-old girl, and the rest were men.

Survivors were quoted as saying they believed they were victims of feuding in a political movement. The attack capped a violent weekend in the city, during which two Iranian engineers were shot dead and a mosque was bombed. — Reuters, Karachi.

Spanish blast damages train

A FRENCH TGV high-speed train suffered minor damage when an explosive device went off on the railway tracks in Irun, a Basque city in northern Spain, police reported yesterday.

The engine and first carriage were damaged in the blast which happened on Friday as the train left Irun for the French town of Hendaye. No one claimed responsibility. — AP, Irun.

New 'princes' of the Church



Pope John Paul II welcomes 22 new cardinals who were elevated at an elaborate ceremony in St Peter's Square at the weekend. The cardinals come from 13 countries, including Tanzania and Taiwan. PHOTOGRAPH: PAOLO COCCO

Rally ban takes effect

A 25-DAY ban on political rallies went into effect in Jakarta yesterday ahead of Indonesia's presidential election. At the same time, human rights groups claimed that five people killed last week in rioting had been shot by troops.

The Jakarta Post newspaper also reported that three human rights groups claimed that 921 people were arrested and 30 towns went missing after mobs rampaged through more than 20 towns over rising food prices and growing shortages. — AP, Jakarta.

Home insurance.

Why pay more? Why not give us a bell...

0345 123 111

Please quote ref. NPA

Hill House Hammond

Over 200 branches nationwide

The Guardian Travel Shop

A Week in Tuscany

7 nights
from only £529
12 & 18 October 1998



Join us for a week in that most enticing of Italian regions, Tuscany, where unchanging landscapes have been inspiration to poets and artists over the centuries. Based in the elegant Spa town of Chianciano Terme, you will have time to unwind, relax and savour the local cuisine and fine Tuscan wines. Excursions to Florence, Siena & San Gimignano, Pienza & Montepulciano and Assisi are included.

Included in the price are: Return scheduled flights from London Heathrow • Transfers between the airport and your hotel • 7 nights half board accommodation • Excursions to Florence, Siena & San Gimignano, Pienza & Montepulciano and Assisi • Services of an experienced tour leader.

This holiday is organised by Page & Moy Ltd, 136/140 London Road, Leicester, LE2 1EN. ABTA V6345 ATOL 133. Prices per person sharing a twin room. Single Room Supplement £9 per night.

For a full colour brochure and booking form please complete and return the coupon below, or call Page & Moy quoting reference: FL2598

0116 250 7676

To Page & Moy Ltd, 136-140 London Road, Leicester LE2 1EN

Please send me full details of the Guardian Travel Offer

☐ Tuscany FL2598

☐ Please tick this box if you do NOT wish to receive details of other offers from The Guardian or other companies approved by The Guardian

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

The Guardian

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the page.

Hindu nationalists in fury over 'coup'

Suzanne Goldenberg
in Sambhal, northern India

MOUNTED police stood watch on the banks of the Ganges, and soldiers trained jeep-mounted machine-guns along deserted roads in the backlands of north India yesterday. In the second round of general elections, eight people were killed in poll clashes, six in the state of Bihar. But the violence — on a relatively modest scale for Bihar — was eclipsed by developments in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, when the state government of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was ousted in a political coup.

In Sambhal, the local preserve of the Hindu nationalists' most formidable enemy, infuriated BJP supporters hurled bricks from rooftops to stop rivals reaching polling stations. Polling was interrupted at several booths after party agents came to blows. The government collapsed after its allies — who had defected from their own parties only months ago — walked out of the coalition. Within hours, the state governor swore in a rebel government, ousting the BJP's prime ministerial candidate, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Mr Vajpayee yesterday threatened to starve himself to death in protest against "a midnight conspiracy to influence voting in the state". The past five years have seen intense polarisation in Uttar Pradesh, with Muslims, lower-caste Hindus — includ-

ing the politically ascendant Yadav caste — and Dalits (formerly "Untouchables") lined up against the BJP. Although the BJP's fall, it was cause for celebration for supporters of its main local foe, the Samajwadi Party leader, Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Mr Yadav, a former wrestler, was defence minister in the outgoing United Front government. These elections are widely expected to produce a fractured verdict and, if the numbers favour the United Front, he would be a contender for prime minister.

So hungry was the BJP for the defeat of the Samajwadi Party leader that they lured away a local strongman, D.P. Yadav (no relation), who has been implicated in several serious crimes and was for many years in the service of the Samajwadi Party leader.

Anticipating a showdown, the administration had sealed all routes to Sambhal and posted guards on the Ganges. Hundreds of border and paramilitary forces were put on standby, and bureaucrats with swagger sticks patrolled with truckloads of riot police.

Candidates were forbidden to travel with the entourages that are de rigueur in this machismo-ruled, fast-growing area. At his lavish farm D.P. Yadav has built two barracks for his bodyguards. Yesterday he was videoed by police seeking evidence of attempts to influence voting.

BJP supporters admitted yesterday that the fall of the state government had drastically affected the local contest. They claimed police, anticipating the Samajwadi Party's return to power, would overlook attempts at rigging by its supporters.

It would have been hard for the Samajwadi Party to capture booths if the government had not fallen. As long as we had the government we had a chance," said Sumit Kumar Rastogi, a BJP supporter. The Samajwadi Party leader is beloved by his Yadav caste and trusted by Muslims, who remember his efforts to protect the Babri Masjid, the mosque in Ayodhya destroyed by Hindu zealots in 1992.

Some villages of Sambhal are almost exclusively Muslim, and a vote for any other candidate is unthinkable. "Here there is only one name: Mulayam Singh Yadav," said Akbar Jameel, a farmer.

In all but a few constituencies, the final day of polling is next Saturday, and counting will begin a week today. But voting in Kashmir — disputed by India and Pakistan — and snow-bound Himalayan regions will take place after the main results are announced.



Indian voters queue to cast their votes yesterday in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh state, where BJP supporters clashed with Samajwadi Party rivals

Georgians free UN hostage but siege goes on

Nino Ivanishvili
in Dzikhkashkari, Georgia

GEORGIAN gunmen yesterday released a United Nations military observer but continued to hold several other hostages at a besieged farmhouse.

Uruguayan Julio Navas smiled and waved as he was driven from the village of Dzikhkashkari. His release was the first sign of progress in negotiations between local officials and about a dozen gunmen who seized the hostages on Thursday in the nearby town of Zugdidi. It was not clear if any deal was struck to secure his freedom.

The gunmen, followers of Georgia's late first president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was ousted in 1992, were still holding another Uruguayan, a Czech and a Swede from a UN monitoring force, and the family whose house it is.

They are demanding the release of prisoners arrested after an assassination attempt on President Eduard Shevardnadze on February 9. Hundreds of troops were surrounding the site but officials said they had ruled out the use of force.

"There can be no question of storming it when there are children, UN observers, women in there," said the security minister, Dzhenal Gakhokidze yesterday.

Interviewed before his release, Mr Navas had said: "The sooner we will be released the better because the mood of the terrorists is changing like the wind depending on the local and Rus-

sian news broadcasting, because very often they think their message is distorted."

The Czech president, Václav Havel, and the Swedish prime minister, Goran Persson, have telephoned Mr Shevardnadze, to urge a peaceful outcome. The Uruguayan president, Julio Sanguinetti, has pledged co-operation to end the siege peacefully.

The gunmen said on Saturday they had offered to release a hostage if troops surrounding the farmhouse were withdrawn. They also wanted UN personnel to lead the negotiations. Georgian officials said UN staff talked to the gunmen yesterday.

"There is no change in our demands and we will stay here until all those demands are met," the chief hostage-taker, Gocha Beseba, told Georgian television yesterday.

He declined to say whether he himself took part in the grenade attack on Mr Shevardnadze's motorcade in Tbilisi from which the president escaped unhurt. The president has blamed the Gamsakhurdia faction for the latest attempt on his life.

At least seven people have been detained in connection with the attack, including at least two in Zugdidi, a Gamsakhurdia stronghold close to the secessionist western province of Abkhazia, where the UN monitors a ceasefire. The UN monitors a ceasefire. The UN monitors a ceasefire.

The hostages said they were being well-treated, although one old woman had been taken ill. — Reuters.

Turkish Cypriot leader to snub British peace envoy

As negotiations on divided Cyprus enter a critical phase, **Helena Smith** talks to Rauf Denktaş (right)



SIR David Hannay, Britain's envoy to Cyprus, arrives on the divided island this week facing a flat rejection from the Turkish Cypriot leader he had hoped to entice to the negotiating table.

"We have lost faith in the British government's attitude towards Cyprus," Rauf Denktaş, the veteran head of the island's breakaway Turkish Cypriot Republic, said in an interview.

"I'm really sorry to say this, but it is very much Greek Cypriot oriented and not Cyprus oriented," he said.

"Britain should have stood in the middle. She only recognises my opponent as the government of Cyprus. I have to do something to make the world see that this is not the case, that we will not give in. I will start by not seeing Sir David."

The envoy's visit marks

the start of the international community's biggest push to reunite the island 34 years after a Greek-inspired coup prompted an invasion by Turkey. In the coming months, other mediators, including Richard Holbrooke, President Clinton's emissary, will join in a frenzy of diplomatic activity in both sectors of the divided capital.

With talks on Cyprus's membership of the EU just weeks away and mounting Graeco-Turkish tensions, this is seen as a make-or-break year. Unless a settlement is reached, many believe EU accession could mean permanent partition.

Turkish Cypriots, whose state is recognised only by Ankara, have refused to participate in the talks before a solution is found.

Britain, the island's former colonial power, has played a leading role in the search for a settlement. Sir David, one of the Foreign Office's most accomplished diplomats, had hoped to kickstart UN-sponsored talks stalled since the summer.

But Mr Denktaş, a London-trained barrister, said his resolve not to see him had been hardened by Britain's recent decision to impose visa restrictions on Turkish Cypriots travelling to Britain. With the economy of

Turkish Cyprus almost at meltdown, Mr Denktaş lambasted the £30 visa fee as an "untimely and unnecessary punishment".

The British Labour government introduced the fee last year to try to control hundreds of bogus applications by Turkish Cypriots seeking "political asylum".

"Sir David is supposed to be a go-between," Mr Denktaş said. "A man who has that task cannot be the representative of a country that issues a punishment just before he starts those contacts."

"If he cannot correct this injustice, why should I waste my time with him on the main problem?" he asked.

The Turkish Cypriots, who make up 17 per cent of Cyprus's population, declared independence in 1983, emboldened by the 35,000 mainland Turkish troops sent to "protect" them.

Mr Denktaş has toughened his stance after the EU's rejection of Turkey's own application last December. A Foreign Office official said he had become "increasingly irrational".

Mr Denktaş stressed the deadlocked inter-communal talks could be reactivated only on a "state-to-state basis".

"From 1975 we should have said: 'We are the Turkish part of Cyprus and as sovereign as you [Greek Cypriots] and, unless you recognise us, we are not going to have any talks'."

"If we had done that, I am sure we would have had a solution by now," he said.

'If Sir David can't correct this injustice, why should I waste time with him on the big problem?'

'I have to make the world see that we will not give in. I will start by not seeing Sir David'

Stewardship – the ethical PEP from Friends Provident.
82% tax-free profit. No harm done.

The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP aims to invest in companies which make a positive contribution to society. Get on The Blue Line now, direct to Friends Provident. You'll deal with friendly qualified people who'll explain all you want to know about the Stewardship PEP in clear straightforward language.

Friends Provident are pioneers in ethical investment and in the past 13 years have invested £975 million on behalf of customers who want profit and principles.

Get on The Blue Line
0800 00 00 80

We're open 8 to 8 Weekdays, 10 to 4 Weekends. Call 0800 00 00 80.

FRIENDS PROVIDENT

FRIENDS PROVIDENT THE BLUE LINE LIMITED IS A REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE FRIENDS PROVIDENT MARKETING GROUP WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY. THE VALUE OF A UNIT TRUST, AND ANY INCOME FROM IT, IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO UP AND DOWN DEPENDING ON INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. TAX LEGISLATION MAY CHANGE, BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STewardship PEP UNIT OVER 6 YEARS TO THE 30TH JANUARY 1998. ALL FIGURES ON AN OFFER TO BID BASIS WITH GROSS INCOME REINVESTED. SOURCE: REUTERS HINDSIGHT. YOUR CALL MAY BE RECORDED FOR YOUR SECURITY. IN THE JULY 1997 BUDGET THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A NEW INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT WHICH IS LIKELY TO REPLACE PEPs. PROPOSALS ALLOW PEP INVESTMENTS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO AN ISA SUBJECT TO AN UPPER OVERALL INVESTMENT LIMIT, PROVISIONALLY SET AT £20,000. ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE INVESTMENT IN A PEP ONCE THE NEW ACCOUNT IS INTRODUCED, PEPs WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY ALL EXISTING TAX BENEFITS UNTIL 1998.

Sears Financial Services Limited

Notice of change of interest rate
with effect from 5th March 1998, the rate of interest on SearsCard accounts (excluding Selfridges SearsCard Accounts) will be:

Non Direct Debit Rate
2.27% per month (30.9% APR)
Direct Debit Rate
2.07% per month (27.8% APR)

SearsCard

Sears Financial Services Limited, Radcliffe House, Blenheim Court, Solihull B91 2AA. Tel: 0121 252 4700

Helena Smith

OF COURSE, there are plenty of civilians on both sides who would like the line to go away. I have friends who dream of uniting their "pre and post-1974 selves by crossing it. Many worry that if things go on as they are, there will be few with living memories of the "other side" by the next century. For the island's sixth president, elected recently, success rests solely on whether he can get the UN-patrolled dummy dummy strip back together again. And in doing so rid the world of its last divided capital.



A black and white cartoon illustration of a man with a large nose, wearing a headband and a tank top, holding a can of 'DEL' paint. He is standing in a room with striped wallpaper. A speech bubble above him says, 'WOLSEY? THAT'S CARPETS LIKE, INNIT?'. To his left is a box labeled 'MFI 1 self-assembly "Green Lady" Chip board lean screen'. To his right is a window with floral wallpaper and a sign that says 'FUSIN STONE CLADDING'. The man is looking towards the viewer with a slight smile.

It's cool, it's hip. And soon it will be a testbed of grassroots democracy



First the cool hit, *Art is the*

Money has come tumbling unexpectedly into the place. City Challenge, Heseltine's brain-child, required local government, business and com-

Seven pilot areas were chosen for this new experiment in democracy. Small neighbourhood committees were set up and last November the first ever mini-local-elections were held. Each committee has about 30 seats; each member is elected from about 50 households and has to live on that

You might say, why on earth are they spending on the arts or worrying about local democracy when facing these old intractable problems? But sometimes coming at old problems from new angles brings unexpected change for the better.

Unloving memory



At a hastily gathered press conference in the Rose Garden, Bill Clinton highlighted the "enviable consistency" of Saddam. "He lied to us consistently," the President said. "He never once told us the truth. Not one single time. And that is a rare political gift."

A statement from Buckingham Palace said Her Majesty was "naturally saddened" by the passing of a fellow head of state. "She also laments the abrupt flattening of his 17 palaces and trusts that the Iraqi people, through public subscription, may swiftly see them rebuilt."

There was a categorical denial of tabloid reports that the Queen Mother had danced for

Around the Middle East, Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke of a "regional giant who has many times come to my aid" and President Assad of a "benchmark for Arab governance which often proved of inestimable value to Syria". President Yeltsin has declared a 48-hour mourning period for Russian diplomatic service and will be spending his "remembrance time" alone in a clinic outside Moscow.

Meanwhile, stock markets around the world are expected to close today after IMF forecasts of "severe and unprecedented" falls in the price of petroleum. A Federal Reserve statement described President Hussein's role in the maintenance of high oil prices

Lady Thatcher writes: Can I add a personal reminiscence of a leader who, through the 1980s, stood four-square with Britain against the menace of Tehran? It is said that he was strong. But we were all strong then. As the Task Force retreated towards the Falkland Islands, I recall that he called me late at night with an offer of the utmost kindness: "Are the Argies on the island healthy, Margaret?" he inquired. "Can I help with some little devices which may render them less healthy?" No need, I replied. I have my own little devices. But it was the thought that counted, and I shall always salute these early instincts so ably submerged in his later zealousy.

Camelot's casino kids

about 45,000 children between 12 and 15 years of age have serious gambling problems, it appears, some stealing to fund their next fix. Scratch-cards, like fruit machines, are proving highly addictive to children.

There is also rising alarm from politicians and church-people at the TV's next big push - "Lottery Dreams", a game-show promoting those scratch-cards, coming next month courtesy of our public service broadcaster. Kids already love BBC's National Lottery Live, broadcast at 7.50pm, well before the water-gate. (Last Saturday, starring

LAST night the regulator's office still would not say when they would publish the research from Plymouth University. This is not secret data that might jeopardise national security.

advance, and a PR man from Hill & Knowlton in the chair. Lord Williams, Home Office minister and barrister, joked about his long professional relationship with the industry. Ladbroke's chief executive chatted with the lottery regulator. Casino regulators had a laugh with slot machine promoters. Everyone had a jolly good time. They wheeled about a problem gambler. He was the sort the industry can stomach. Middle-aged "Mick"

Like the tobacco boys, they do not want to be associated with hurting children, but, God, it's so tempting to start

They have made gambling part of the culture of childhood — and now they don't want the parents to know.

Paul Foul's column will appear tomorrow.

Paul Foul's column will appear tomorrow

Green field, brown field

Housing needs flexibility

WHEN JOHN PRESCOTT announces his plan for new house-building today, he knows he will get mortar in his face — from both sides. The issue combines two of the most passion-inducing themes of modern society: homes and the countryside. The debate has already generated more sound than light. Key statistics are contested and assumptions about social trends may be mistaken. Yet however blurred at the edges, this is a huge problem which must be tackled. The shift from Thatcherite laissez-faire, already under way in the last years of Tory rule, has created a better atmosphere. And the Deputy Prime Minister is fortunately not short of political nerve: he will need it too.

The argument has to begin with the now notorious statistic of the 4.4 million new homes needed over the next 20 years. For a figure which only emerged less than three years ago, it has already proved to be a moving target. Last autumn there were suggestions that it should be revised upwards

to 5.5 million units. Indeed experience shows that estimates in this area usually turn out to be under-estimates. Yet as the Guardian's Analysis page showed in two features last month, some of the assumptions may be questionable. A new generation of singletons may not all wish to live on their own, and the figures do not allow for cohabitation. Nor has the industry done so badly: the figures are based on projections from 1991, since when over three-quarters of a million new homes have been built.

Mr Prescott has already indicated he is not going to get locked into the "predict and provide" approach. There is a persuasive analogy here with road building. Demand may simply expand to keep pace with increased supply: surplus provision might, for example, merely provide more scope for those with surplus cash to buy themselves second homes. But whatever the policy, we do need to look at the statistics again. This is a job which the Select Committee on the Environment should take on board and put all the data under review.

However uncertain the predictions, there is no doubt that a large number of new housing units will be needed over the next few years, and that this will require some hard choices. It is equally clear that more inner-city construction is necessary and —

most important — that most of the estimated three-quarters of a million of empty existing dwellings must be brought back into use. A successful programme will require a mixture of incentives to build on brownfield sites. These will include not only tax concessions and urban renewal grants under consideration but other measures to ensure that the new homes meet the social needs of the deprived, rather than the lifestyle needs of the well-heeled. And these measures may be futile without broader efforts to improve urban life — particularly by improvements in public transport.

None of this will necessarily satisfy the countryside lobby which, joined in post-defeat New Tory mode by many conservatives, now demands a much higher proportion of new construction on urban sites than the 60 per cent of new building proposed by Mr Prescott (a figure floated by John Gummer more than two years ago). But if we are no longer going to "predict and provide", then the percentages need no longer be the only consideration. Nor is all urban land suitable for building — and some is permanently blighted by industrial contamination. As Mr Prescott argued yesterday, what is wanted is a system which is more accountable and makes provision for the groups that matter. Moving from central to

regional decision-making may help to reach sensible decisions. Encroaching on green belts which have already become degraded is not such a cardinal sin. Building new houses for local people — with proper guarantees — may be more important than preserving a bridleway for the riding schools. The countryside lobby should be flexible enough to recognise that rural areas may have brown fields — and that towns need green fields too.

Bare contacts

They might avert a bad fall

ALL THOSE platitudes about sport building bridges between nations look like getting a new lease of life. The US wrestling team has been a huge success in Tehran. Crowds were described as rapturous and the American flag hung from the stadium ceiling for four days without once getting burnt. Cue for wistful comment: if only sportsmen could take the place of diplomats.

It is not so simple as that, although the memory of pingpong diplomacy — China, 1971 — when a US table tennis team blazed a trail for Henry Kissinger and Richard Nixon — comes to mind. Chinese officials insisted

at the time that sport had nothing to do with politics, but in retrospect the visit was acknowledged to have served a very specific diplomatic purpose. The Chinese deliberately let the Americans win: did the Iranians ease up a shade last week too?

We must wait and see whether the struggle between the Great Satan and Iranian fundamentalism will be judged to have begun to abate as the result of a wrestling match. Meanwhile a heavyweight effort is needed to tackle another persistent source of international conflict — the US-Japan trade dispute which surfaced again this weekend at the G7 summit. US-born Japanese champion Konishi — usually known as Meat Ball or Dump Truck because he weighs in at 600 pounds — has been doing his best to improve relations for many years, but unfortunately has just retired.

The IOC president must reverse the decision, announced at the start of the Nagano winter Olympics, that sumo is not popular enough to be an Olympic sport. And a further possibility could also be explored. If sporting people are to become diplomats, why should not diplomats, or even leaders, try their hand at sports? Bill Clinton stripped bare except for a loincloth, facing a rogue contestant now there would be another way to demonstrate American resolve.

Letters to the Editor

Naked truth on the internet

JOAN Smith (Review, February 20) is quite wrong to assert that the "Jennicam" internet site offers a "censored" view of a woman's bedroom with no nudity or sexual images. The site's current archive alone contains pictures of Jennifer Ringley half-naked and masturbating. These intimate moments which can be read either as a radical "reclaiming" or reactionary exhibition of the female body, coupled with the predominantly male audience of internet sites and Jennifer's modification of her own image through the sale of mousepads bearing her face make "Jennicam" a far more potent and problematic site than Smith would have us believe. Will Brooker, University of Wales, Cardiff.

I HAD not expected to be attacked by The Guardian of all newspapers for meeting Salman Rushdie (Diary, February 19). Your column failed to note that the week that I met Mr Rushdie coincided with the ninth anniversary of the fatwa which has left him in fear for his life. It was to demonstrate my opposition to that death threat that I went ahead with the meeting which had been planned for many weeks. I have no regrets about having met Mr Rushdie and will continue to voice my opposition to the threat to his life at every appropriate opportunity. Robin Cook MP, Secretary of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

I AM one of the teenagers whom the HEA is worried might be influenced by smoking in films (Movies urged to cut out smoking, February 19). This is patronising to young people who do not emulate everything they see in films. Cutting out smoking would result in a decrease in realism and, if anything, would make cigarettes seem more rebellious, increasing their appeal. It is ridiculous to be concerned about Uma Thurman's character in Pulp Fiction smoking, when later on she takes heroin and cocaine. Eleanor Maier, Horspath, Oxford.

March of the right brigade

SO THE Transport & General Workers' Union claims that estate workers are being "forced" to attend the Countryside March on Sunday and has produced one individual to back that claim (Yeomen get marching orders, February 21).

Some employers may feel so strongly about the issues that they are being quite forceful in encouraging their employees to attend and are providing coaches for them. Others are aware of how forbidden employees to attend, even in their own time.

However, the vast majority of people attending the Countryside March will not be marching in chains. They will come in their tens of thousands — because they oppose the anti hunting bill, or because their livelihoods are threatened by the parlous state of the beef and sheep markets, or because they believe the countryside is threatened — by development, "right to roam" proposals, or the running down of rural services. It

seems reasonable for the owners of sporting estates to expect all their employees to stand up for the jobs of the fellow employees whose jobs are at risk from the anti-hunting bill, and the animal rights extremists — who are as quick to attack a gamekeeper as a man in a red coat.

It seems reasonable for the TGWU to stand up for the rights of the minority who may not wish to do so. But it seems irrational for a union that claims to represent the interests of rural workers to support efforts to put more than 15,000 people out of work and out of their homes. Robin Hambury-Tenison, Chief executive, Countryside Alliance, London.

YOUR slanted report presented a totally false picture of a movement which has united country dwellers in a truly rousing grassroots campaign to defend the countryside against the charges levelled by ignorant

and judgmental urbanites. I have cancelled my order for the Guardian. Louise Guinness, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

IN response to your report on the right-to-roam white paper (A walk on the wild side, February 17), it should be remembered that the UK's 5,000 gamekeepers professionally manage rural areas twice the size of Wales. Their contribution to maintaining the unique biodiversity of our much loved countryside is recognised by government conservation agencies.

The management of heather moorland for grouse shooting ensures the survival of a unique habitat that may otherwise be lost to sheep grazing or afforestation. Heather is burned in order to provide food and habitat for bird and insect life. Lesley Ferguson, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Wrexham.

When it's proselytise or perish

IT is all very well for Rabbi Sacks to object to Evangelical Christians seeking to convert Jews, and, given past history, I can to some extent sympathise (Howard's son defends crusade to convert Jews, February 19). However, it is hard to avoid the feeling that his objections are both misdirected and futile.

The main threat to Judaism, as to religion generally, is not from rival faiths but rather from secularisation, ie "conversion" to nothing in particular. For every Jew who abandons his/her faith due to the blandishments of some missionary or other, there are probably a dozen or more who do so in consequence of "marrying out" or simple lack of interest.

In this situation, religious groups have two main options: 1) Have more babies (increasingly problematic in an age when birth rates everywhere are falling); 2) Aggressive missionary

work, so that drop-outs are replaced by new converts. Very large denominations, such as Islam or Catholicism, may be able to ignore this dilemma, at least in the short run. So, at the opposite extreme, may tiny cults, which can seek to escape the painful world by withdrawing their entire membership to a remote island or a Waco-style compound. However, everyone in between, including Judaism and most brands of Christianity, is likely to be faced by a stark choice of proselytise or perish.

In this situation, it will profit the good Rabbi little to moan at the missionary churches. Their long term survival depends on making converts, from Judaism or whenever they can, and they cannot and will not turn them away. Indeed, it is hard to see how the Jews themselves can escape the same difficult choice. If, for their own reasons, they

do not wish to be a missionary faith, that of course is their decision, but I feel it casts a serious doubt on their future. Judaism has given much to the world, and if it dies out in my lifetime I shall mourn for it, but I can't say that I am over-optimistic. Michael W Stone, Peterborough.

NEVER thought that I would find myself defending a member of Michael Howard's family, but here goes. There seem to me to be at least two reasons why the response of the rabbi, and of your leader (February 19), to son Nick's evangelism is an over-reaction.

There is no law in this country against a member of one faith discussing that faith with a member of another. There are, of course, laws against discrimination, but not against honest debate and discussion. This should surely have its place in the University of Oxford? Michael Pidd, Lancaster.



Ruud sets the ball rolling

DAVID MELLOR, who questioned the recent sackings of Bradford City manager Chris Kamara, said to one caller last Saturday on Radio 5's phone-in, "Ken Bates had to make a stand on behalf of football. If you bow down to these people, it will mean that fans like you and I will have to pay more through the turnstiles." As if Ken Bates is about to reduce season ticket

prices. As if Mellor has to pay for his tickets. Where were people like Mellor when foot ball wasn't so fashionable?

And how long had Ken Bates' sordid cloak and dagger operation been going on to oust Ruud Gullit from his manager's role?

The sooner fans say enough is enough, the better. Steven Harris, London.

The Foreign Office's prison record

YOUR report on Britons imprisoned in Peru's Luján Prison says the deaths of Brian Tristram and John Baxall received no publicity in the British press (God's hell on Earth, February 21). Not entirely true, although if it had been, for once the fault would not have lain with the media.

Bedfordshire on Sunday reported the arrests of Tristram and Baxall in Peru and sent a reporter into the jail to interview them before they were sentenced. His chillingly accurate prophecy was that they would not survive more than five years in this prison.

For several years we kept in fairly regular touch with their condition through a helpful Foreign Office diplomat in Lima, but all information stopped when he was posted elsewhere.

When we got news of Baxall's death in 1995, we asked the Foreign Office about Tristram. "He is as well as can be expected," was the answer. In that he had been dead 11 months — as we discovered the following week — the response was accurate, if not helpful.

While being unhelpful to a

local newspaper may be cause for self-congratulation in the Foreign Office, misinforming an MP should be a different matter. Between the deaths of Tristram and Baxall, Sir Trevor Skeet, then MP for Bedford, announced that he would try to get them repatriated to serve the rest of their sentence in Britain. When we found that Tristram had been dead some months before he made this statement, we asked if the FO had told him of this. The answer was "No".

It is clear that the Foreign Office does not give a twopenny damn about British nationals in foreign jails. It will be interesting to see if Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons can change its attitude. Frank Evanson, Chairman, Bedfordshire on Sunday Newspapers Group, Bedford.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret that we cannot acknowledge letters. The Country Diary can be found on Page 13

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley



ALTHOUGH I detest fox hunting and — in these days of set-aside land and plastic bags of silage where haystacks used to be — find it hard to think of farmers as the guardians of our rural heritage, I am delighted that there is to be a Countryside March on London next Sunday. Until a couple of weeks ago, the stickers in the Range Rover windows meant to me more than the prospects of another weekend traffic jam that I would be glad to miss. Then, during one of my weekday urban walks, I was accosted in the most polite way possible by a man in a covert coat and brown

trilby. What he said to me — with immense apologies for coming between me and my dog — convinced me of what an important day March 1 ought to be.

As we waited obediently at the Birdage Walk traffic lights, he told me that he was an officer of the Historic Houses Association and that many members of that distinguished organisation intended to plot their way through the capital on demonstration day. Believing that town bred politicians have neither sympathy for nor understanding of the countryside, they would march in support of rural England in general. But their particular concern was the prospect of hikers swarming across their land. They proposed to form up in disciplined ranks because of their fear that the Government would legalise "the right to roam".

I would have asked if the protesters took their stand on principle — the sanctity of private property — or if they feared that massive damage would be done. But the lights changed and we went our separate ways.

In the argument between

hikers and landowners, both instinct and upbringing put me firmly on the hikers' side. But in the context of the current political debate, the merits of the conflicting points of view are less important than the existence of the conflict. For it illustrates that, despite all the sentimental talk about governing in the simultaneous interests of the whole nation, there are some rival demands that simply cannot be reconciled. Many of them are far more fundamental than the right to wander across, or retain the exclusive use of, lands that were stolen from the people at the time of the enclosures.

In the days when at least a minority of socialists thought it necessary to examine the principles on which they built policy, the right to roam was always cited as an example of irreconcilable objectives. Land cannot be both private and public. Sometimes, the Government has to take sides.

It is always possible to cobble together a compromise. Though it is more likely to be the lowest common denominator rather than the highest common factor. The ramblers' right could be restricted to

prescribed paths on designated days. But that is not the same as pretending that, as long as we all work together in harmony and understanding, we can always find a solution which is universally and perpetually beneficial. Compromises, over major issues, normally involve both party to the dispute surrendering rights which they believe should be inalienable theirs. By attempting to balance one grudging concession against another, a government merely demonstrates that it has no clear view about which rights should be inalienable — or, if it has, it prefers not to admit what they are.

IN politics, as in life, some things simply cannot be reconciled. It is not possible to provide both selective and comprehensive education in the same borough. Nor can the needs of the poor be met without inconveniencing the rich. Arguments about the right to roam ought to refocus our attention on such simple truths.

The search for compromise usually satisfies no one. And I would gamble that, if yesterday's newspaper reports

prove correct, the suggestion that ramblers should be welcomed on previously prohibited lands as long as they leave their dogs at home will be dismissed by both hikers and landowners as an absurdity. Yet the idea is much to be welcomed as a further contribution to the debate on liberty. R H Hawney, in one of his more graphic metaphors, observed that freedom for the pike is death to the minnow. Presumably, whoever is drafting the right to roam Green Paper believes much the same about the relationship between lurchers and grouse. Indeed, his spokesman drew the nation's attention to the problems the Government anticipated in persuading dogs that rights must be accompanied by responsibilities.

It seems that, although claiming to be moderate in all other particulars, New Labour is anthropomorphic to a surprising extreme. I have always assumed that responsibility for a dog's good behaviour rested with the owner and I have a Bow Street conviction to prove that at least in English law that principle holds good. But by talking about the balance

of rights and responsibilities — canine or otherwise — the Government is advancing over the frontiers of philosophical debate. And that, for a party that has been bogged down for so long in the muddy trenches of pragmatism, is a cause for unequivocal rejoicing.

The ultimate decision about the right to roam will — consciously or by default — be a confirmation of John Rawls's principle that "when liberties are left unrestricted they collide with one another" and that the principle duty of a democratic government is to adjudicate between alternative claims. Rawls even had a general rule by which the adjudication should be governed. The Government should pursue more equal distribution of power, as well as wealth, until "the relevant representative man or woman... prefer his or her prospects with the inequality to his or her prospects without it." If the Government applied that principle to the right to roam, the hills would be alive with the sound of hikers. And if they applied it in general, the Labour Party would begin to fulfil its true destiny.

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

FREE!

Australia	18p	N. Zealand	27p
Germany	12p	Pakistan	72p
Hong Kong	27p	S. Africa	34p
India	50p	Thailand	72p
Ireland	10p	UK	5p
Japan	20p	USA	8p

Call us today for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre-paid account.

0800 769 0033

Call 1800 794 381 if you live in Ireland.
1800 836 5005 if you live in the USA.

BUSINESS 0800 769 2222

These offer peak rates are available 7 days a week. Minimum 10min. Discount based on a minimum pre-payment of £100. Our service is available in the UK only. Prices correct as of 01.02.98.

Henry Livings

Farce's loving anarchist

AMONG the story-tellers who dwell beyond the sacred orbit of the M25, a select few became known by their first names only. Sid (Chaplin of Newcastle) was one such, as was Gwyn (Thomas of the Rhonda). Henry (Livings of Delph and Dobcross, near Oldham, Lancashire), who has died aged 68, was another. He was the mightiest of Penine writers.

Livings was born in Prestwich, Manchester. After a traditional grammar school education, where he loved the learning but developed a life-long contempt for the associated snobbery and elitism, he read French and Spanish for two years at Liverpool University. But he found greater joy in the dramatic society and decided: an actor's life for me. He dropped out via the obligatory two years of National Service, where he worked as an RAF cook. "That's how I discovered a cook never starves," he used to say.

He served a traditional apprenticeship as actor and dogbody in various reps from Dundee in the north — where he met his wife, Fanny — to Canterbury in the south and Belfast in the west, as

well as appearing in pantomime in Bradford and Southsea — experiences recorded in memorable short stories such as *Twice-Nightly, Thursday Off To Learn It and Will The Demon King Please Wear The Hat Provided?*

A formative experience for him, as for many others, was joining Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop in 1956. He appeared in Brendan Behan's *The Quare Fellow* and, when the company went to France, was sent on to the streets of Paris with the instruction from Joan: "Go out and find a goat." It became one of the hundreds of stories which, down the years, entranced those of us privileged to spend drinking time with this prince of raconteurs.

His first television play, *Jack's Horrid Luck*, was produced by the BBC in Manchester in 1961, in the days when the regions had genuine autonomy and focus groups hadn't been invented. In the same year his first stage play, *Stop It, Whoever You Are*, was produced at the Arts Theatre in London. In the lead was Wilfred Brambell, who introduced himself thus: "My name's William Perkin Warbeck. William after my father, Perkin after the famous revolutionary. If it's all the same

to you, I'd prefer to be called Perkin."

His central characters in the early plays were definitive anti-heroes — quiet, put-upon, innocent anarchists like Laurel and Hardy, they tended to destroy society, starting with the institution immediately bearing down on their spirit.

The 1960s were a rich, productive period: *Ni Carborandum* at the Arts, with Nicol Williamson and John Thaw; *Big Soft Nellie* at Stratford East, with Roy Kinnear and Bryan Pringle; *Kelly's Eye* at the Royal Court, with Williamson and Sarah Miles; and, probably most famously, *Ed? at the Aldwych*, in an RSC production with David Warner. *Ed?* was later produced at the Circle in the Square in New York, starring the then unknown Dustin Hoffman.

The plays are surreal farces, a million miles away from the bog-standard gritty northern realism into which so much regional drama tends to be categorised. He was a class act and he needed class actors. Theatricality was his more audacious than any of his contemporaries, with the possible exception of John Arden. The earthy poetry of language was punctuated

with jokes, songs and, in *The Little Mrs Poster Show*, a game of bingo.

Of his working methods he said: "If the story's getting a bit boring I open a door and have a character walk in from another play." And "All you need to write a farce is a door" — a principle he demonstrated with *The Finest Family In The Land*, produced by Philip Hedley at Lincoln in 1973. Its setting is the lift hallway of a block of flats, one of the central characters has a stammer and the original working title was *The Finest Ffucking Family In The Land* — which even

Henry agreed was a little strong for posters in Lincoln in the 1970s.

At no point did he achieve or indeed lust after commercial success — though spending money was never a problem and he moved north to Dobcross in 1982, claiming that he couldn't afford to live in London. This was the start of a passionate love affair with Pennine towns, Rugby League, dogs, dominoes, bowls and brass bands. One of his finest books is *That The Medals And The Baton Be Put On View*, a loving history of the Dobcross Band, 1875-1975. The 1980s and 1990s were

uncharitable to Henry. Philip Hedley was one of the few theatre directors to remain consistently loyal to him and, though he contributed to such TV series as *Juliet Bravo* and *Bulman*, he was never totally at ease with the medium. Indeed, for years he refused to accept commissions from ITV. "Have you looked at the contract? You have to write a 60-minute play in three acts. Bloody Chekov couldn't do that. Not on purpose."

He was a passionate supporter of new writing and writers, working in radio, on television and around the world in the Northern Drift,

Henry Livings... the earthy poetry of language punctuated with jokes and songs. He was passionate and principled, impatient of mean-spirited fools in high places, a lover of anarchy in low places.

"Now you know why I always have two dogs."

He had the grizzled look of an Old Testament prophet who's been none too fussy about the company he's kept, a rambling voice and a laugh that made the universe vibrate. He was passionate and principled, impatient of mean-spirited fools in high places, a lover of anarchy in low places.

In his later years he lived in Delph with Myra Brenner, an old friend from university days. Physically, the years of dedicated late-night drinking and pipe-smoking had taken their toll. He was unable to walk his dog and, when asked about his state of health, replied: "The doctor thinks it's emphysema but he won't be sure until he does the post mortem." He did not regret a damn thing and neither do we, his devoted friends. After hours man to the end, he died peacefully at three o'clock in the morning.

He is survived by his wife, Fanny, his two wonderfully gifted children, Toby and Maria, and his partner since 1982, Myra Brenner.

Alan Flaster

Henry Livings, playwright, born September 20, 1929; died February 20, 1998

Gordon Moore

Samosas and chips recipe

GORDON MOORE, who has died aged 69, was an outstanding council chief executive in the old town clerk tradition, whose farewell dinner summed up his greatest contribution (of many) to his adopted city of Bradford.

The Lord Mayor and local councillors, many of whom had clashed with a man they sometimes thought an over-mighty servant, tucked into fish-and-chips and samosas served together on the same plate. The meal symbolised Moore's patient work to fill a local vacuum in community and race relations, which he had controversially highlighted soon after his promotion from deputy town clerk in 1970. Steering a careful course between the parties — and profiting from a stormy period of no political control between 1982 and 1986 — he helped to make Bradford an exemplar of good relations and (albeit with work still to be done) equal opportunity.

Born in Kewick, the son of Lancashire's first school music adviser, Moore was a first-class law graduate from Cambridge but his cleverness was masked by tactics gleaned from a two-year stint in the forces, working his way up to the rank of sergeant in the Royal Army Educational Corps. He learned the common touch in a wobbly mili-

tary career, which included failing to spot a fire which wrecked an officers' mess while he was on guard duty and losing his ride on the London Underground.

He came to Bradford in 1965, aged 37, as deputy town clerk after local government stints in Cambridgeshire, Worcester, Bath and Croydon. Appointed town clerk five years later, he became the city's first chief executive in 1974.

His role in fostering community relations, as J B Priestley's very Yorkshire city adjusted to some 60,000 immigrants, was paralleled by a far-sighted belief that Bradford was also a potential Mecca for tourists. The narrow-minded obscurity revealed by bitter incidents such as the Honeyford affair — a cultural clash between a local headmaster and Asian-origin parents — was balanced by the imaginative marketing of "Bronteland", Victorian millshops and curry tours.

His role in this field was the part he played in tempting the National Museum of Photography, Film and TV to Bradford, where it has become one of Britain's leading tourist attractions. Moore also handled the disaster aftermath of the Bradford City FC fire, in which 56 spectators died, with sensitiv-

ity and he proved unflappable during several turbulent political reigns, including the "New Tory" dawn of Eric Pickles.

A committed Christian whose faith was not unsettled by the cancer which killed him, Moore retired early, aged 58, to enjoy an active retirement. He was described by former Lord Mayor of Bradford Mohammed Ajeesh as the city's "greatest-ever servant".

He leaves his wife Ursula, daughters Davone and Lindsey and son Andrew.

Martin Wainwright

Gordon Moore, local authority chief executive, born July 23, 1928; died January 18, 1998

Owen Bradley

Calling the Nashville tune

OWEN BRADLEY, who has died aged 82, was a musician, producer and record executive who played a leading role in establishing Nashville as "Music City, USA".

Bradley grew up in Nashville. He learned to play guitar, piano, trombone and other instruments, and by the late 1930s he had become an accomplished dance-band musician equally proficient at country. In 1940, he joined the staff band at Nashville's WSM, the station that broadcast the Grand Ole Opry, among other network programmes. He remained with WSM in various capacities until 1958.

Bradley worked in the Nashville recording industry virtually from its inception. In 1946, the year he debuted on disc as leader of Brad Brady & The Tennesseans, only a small handful of commercial recording sessions had been held in Nashville. But in 1947 Decca Records decided to record the label's Opry stars, such as Ernest Tubb and Red Foley, in the town where they were based. Bradley's skills impressed Decca executive Paul Cohen, who hired him as his part-time, Nashville-based recording assistant.

Bradley went on to direct such pivotal Decca sessions as the ones that produced,

respectively, Red Foley's *Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boy* and Kitty Wells's *It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels*, the latter a record often credited with breaking the country industry's ingrained resistance to female performers. He also worked with bluegrass stalwart Bill Monroe and honky-tonk stylists Tubb and Webb Pierce.

In 1958, Bradley succeeded Cohen as head of Decca's country division. The ensuing years were among the most important of Bradley's long career. With producer Chet Atkins of RCA, Bradley developed what came to be known as the Nashville Sound — a pop-country hybrid using strings and vocal choruses to augment country instrumentation. Among his classic productions are Brenda Lee's *I'm Sorry* and Patsy Cline's *Sweet Dreams*. Though many have criticised the Nashville Sound for smoothing over country's distinctive, rough edges, it proved commercially successful and solidified Nashville's reputation as a music industry town.

Bradley communicated well with the musicians, singers, and songwriters with whom he worked. Loretta Lynn, whose memorable hits, such as the 1970 *Come On* and *Daughter* Bradley produced, described him as a father figure who helped her adjust early on to the stress of a professional music career. "He could see I was just a scared little country girl, and he made me relax," Lynn wrote in her autobiography.

However, Bradley could also be tough. While he and Cline had great respect and affection for one another, they sometimes clashed in the studio — most famously over



Bradley... a leading citizen of Music City, USA

the singer's 1961 crossover hit *I Fall to Pieces*, which Bradley had to pressure Cline into recording.

Many of that era's hits were cut at the Bradley Film and Recording studio, which Owen and his brother Harold, a session guitarist, had built in 1955. The studio generated landmark recordings such as Gene Vincent's *Be-Bop-A-Lula* (though Bradley did not produce that record). In 1962, Bradley sold it to Columbia Records and subsequently opened a new studio, Bradley's Barn, outside the city. He signed Conway Twitty to Decca in 1965 and continued to produce Lynn, Wells, Tubb, and many other acts.

Bradley, who was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1974, remained with Decca until 1976, by which time the label had been absorbed into MCA. He built a second Bradley's Barn after the first burned down in 1980, and he produced Lee's 1988 album *Shadowland*. He returned recently to the studio to work on an upcoming album by singer Mandy Barnett.

Bradley is survived by his wife, Mary, and a son and daughter.

Daniel Cooper

Owen Bradley, record executive, born October 21, 1915; died January 7, 1998

Appreciation: Attia Hosain

WHAT struck me in 1988, while writing the introduction to the Virago editions of the two books by Attia Hosain (*Obituary*, January 20), was the unusual juxtaposition of her aristocratic background — specifically the courtly Muslim traditions of Lucknow — and the sharp, probing eyes that looked with fierce concern to the harsh lives of those who served it. It seemed an unlikely combination but the stories from *Phoenix Fled* that lingered longest in my mind

were those to do with servants in vast compounds and the women in their sealed, protected cells; her empathy for them out-weighted her nostalgia for the dispossessed elite.

That impression of her multi-faceted mind was confirmed when I visited her London flat and she entered the heavily-furnished drawing room like a princess stepping out of a Moghul miniature. Even at 80, her beauty was of exquisite, porcelain delicacy. Yet what she talked about so animatedly was her recent

trip to Russia, in ill-health and great pain, to reaffirm her confidence in the ideals to which she had subscribed as a young woman — when, she joked, she had been a "fellow traveller", a delegate to the left-wing Progressive Writers' Conference. Although never a member, she retained an emotional and intellectual loyalty. These two commitments — to the Indian roots of her family and to her political ideals — informed all her writing and her life.

She was pleased when I told her that the cookery book I used most often was the one she had compiled years ago,

preferring its no-nonsense instruction to glossier ones now flooding the market.

Some years later, she insisted on coming to hear me read at the Nehru Centre, in spite of her fragile health. It was her favourite venue for an outing — and it proved to be that of her very last one, to a book launch of an anthology of stories by mostly young and unknown women writers from India; they were overwhelmed by the compliment and took it as a blessing on their project. It was also a characteristic act of noblesse oblige.

Anita Desai

Jackdaw



Science friction

LITERATURE'S relationship with technology has rarely been untroubled. With the exception of the Futurists who hailed the motorcar, the aeroplane and the factory as art forms in themselves, the love/hate equation linking the two fields has tended to be top-heavy on the hate side. This dates back to at least the early 19th century. Blake gave the "dark satanic mills" and "belching, sullen fires" of the industrial revolution lead roles in

his neo-biblical mythology. Byron wrote stirring lines praising the Luddites, redundant textile workers venting their anger on the machines that had replaced them; and Mary Shelley dreamed up Frankenstein's monster, the destructive progeny of a science out of control. This Romantic formula, which pits the human spirit against the computer's ancestors, has remained in tact throughout the present century's rage against the machine. In *Mute*.

that green-tinted Roswell bloke again, but this time stretched out on his very own autopsy slab. The aim of the game is to dip the forepaws into the poor extra-terrestrial critter's gut (no peeking) and pull out parts of his anatomy (good) or parts of his digestive tract (which includes cups and saucers, reels of film, etc) which won't get you any points. The first person to fill his tray full of genuine alien body bits gets the chance to try to sliver out his bulbous brain.

The alien itself is creepily lifelike, being made of a faintly reptilian rubbery skin and the contents of his stomach are gorgeously realistic. *DIY alien resurrection in Stuff*.

Age old

FIFTY years ago, it was all so simple. You were a kid, then you were an adult. That was it. The entire path-

way of life set out with just two paving stones, neatly cemented to allow no deviation. Then came rock 'n' roll — a cultural revolution much wider than its musical soundtrack. A revolution that afforded time to getting hammered, time to party, time to experiment with drugs, with sex, with life itself, time not to worry about getting ahead or holding back, time to go with the flow, to see what happened, to find yourself, to find other people... and then, finally, after letting off all that steam, time to become an adult. The pathway of life had gained a few more steps. *I-d magazine looks back in envy, rather than anger*.

A Country Diary

THORPE HAMLET, Norfolk: Suddenly it careered into the garden and steamed across as yet bloomless flowerbeds, its hum changing note as if it was throttling back its engines. Then a long upward sally carried it across the lawn, where it crashed into a buddleia stem. Holding on with just two legs, it swung drunkenly upside down for a few seconds before tumbling to the ground. Instantly it sailed away, bumping aside more foliage as it blustered off. It was a bumblebee. It was probably also a queen of one of the more widespread species such as *Bombus lucorum* or *Bombus terrestris*, appearing at least a month before it usually does. Unlike honey bees, only the master queens of bumblebees survive the winter and this individual was either searching for a suitable nesthole or already seeking out pollen and nectar to supply her first

brood. This initial batch of eggs is laid on a plate of bread which is then sealed over with wax walls and roof. The queen also fashions a wax pot that she fills with honey to feed herself and her young should the weather turn bad. When these offspring emerge, they are all daughters but infertile — workers who manage the nest while the queen continues to lay eggs all summer, until the colony numbers several hundred. Despite our undoubted affection for these gloriously characteristic insects, whose gentle drone is the quintessence of British summer, they have not fared so well in a human-dominated world. Of the 25 species in Britain, about a 12th of the planet's total bumblebee fauna, many are now declining in a countryside decimated and full of agricultural chemicals.

MARK COCKER

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Science friction

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Barclays on the prowl again

Rumours forcing bank into open

Ken King

BARCLAYS is this week expected to make a potentially hostile bid for Standard Chartered, valuing its rival at up to £10 billion. Barclays, which has been in the takeover market for some time, has even been seen in the office of the Standard Chartered chairman, Sir John Gieve, in London.

Barclays — the bigger of the two — is understood to prefer a friendly merger to a costly takeover battle. A tie-up between Barclays and Standard Chartered would create a world-class British bank, valued at almost £40 billion, rivaling American groups like Chase Manhattan and Citicorp — and the British HSBC — in its global coverage.

Standard for the world

- Standard Chartered was formed in 1969 through a merger between Standard Bank (founded in 1853) and Chartered Bank.
- Standard first opened branches in 1858 in Calcutta and Bombay.
- Standard Chartered has been involved in diamond and gold mining, being the first bank to open in Johannesburg.
- Standard Chartered employs 25,000 staff in 800 offices — 100 of the offices are in Hong Kong, 43 in Zimbabwe, 31 in Kenya, 24 in India, and 15 in China.
- Oman, Venezuela, the Falklands, Nepal and Burma each have a Standard Chartered office.
- Former employees include John Major.

Tim Halford, Standard Chartered's corporate affairs director, last night insisted that the bank was not holding talks with any other organisation. But it is known that Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, recently dined with his counterpart at Standard Chartered, Malcolm Williamson, at Chez Nico, in London's Park Lane.

A source close to the talks said last night: "There wasn't a serious merger proposal made, or anything like that. But at the end of the meal, Mr Taylor said to Mr Williamson, 'Look, if you're ever thinking of joining forces with someone, we'd be very happy if you didn't speak to us'."

The eagle to swoop?

Barclays

Group profits by region

UK: 77.1%

EU (other): 4.2%

US: 9.7%

Rest of world: 9.0%

Standard Chartered

Group profits by region

Hong Kong: 35.9%

Asia Pacific (other): 23.7%

Middle East: 6.7%

Africa: 9.2%

Americas: 2.3%

UK: 16.1%

Sources: Merrill Lynch, H&M Securities

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Barclays announced last week that its total exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and

Standard's exposure to heavy losses incurred in the region — of which more detail is expected this week — is seen as a deterrent to any buyer.

Notebook

UN boosts its brand identity



Mark Tran

KOFI ANNAN'S Baghdad mission to negotiate a way out of the Gulf crisis has taken him far away from his customary work as United Nations secretary-general. But Mr Annan is a man used to the cut and thrust of the undiplomatic world and capable of building compromises for seemingly irreconcilable opponents, as his tenure at the UN has already shown.

After a long period of mutual suspicion, the UN and big business are joining forces to help the world's poorest countries benefit from globalisation. In the same way that the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has courted the private sector, so Mr Annan is seeking common ground with corporate executives.

The UN has little choice but to make obeisance to the captains of industry; foreign investment dwarfs development aid and Mr Annan is determined to carve out a role for the UN in a world where private capital is the locomotive for development.

The shift in UN culture began with his predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and has developed into a trend under his own tenure.

In January, Mr Annan made the UN's pitch to high-powered members of the business community at Davos, Switzerland. In the first meeting of its kind, Mr Annan hosted this month a gathering for the International Chamber of Commerce. The guests included Lord Holmes, director of Rio Tinto UK, Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT Industries, and Raymond Cesca, managing director of McDonald's Worldwide.

Some UN members feel uneasy at the UN's embrace of big business. Because of their reservations about Mr Annan's reforms, countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia have naturally expressed resentment at the direction in which he is taking the organisation. But the surprise came with the number of international businessmen who wanted to rub shoulders with the secretary-general.

FOR business, the UN is an organisation worth cultivating. Put crudely, its name offers a highly desirable endorsement in a brand-crazy world. As Mr Annan pointed out in Davos, the UN's first mission has been to advocate universal values. The UN charter fleshes out the goals to which people aspire: freedom, justice, peaceful resolution of conflicts, tolerance, dignity and social and economic progress.

World "conscious" companies preach some variation of that message. Just think of Coca-Cola's 1971 'I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing' television commercial with multi-ethnic youngsters on

top of a mountain. In donating \$1 billion to the UN, CNN's Ted Turner immediately associated himself and his company with the lofty ambitions of the UN, from whom his company now receives regular public relations.

The UN also plays a more practical role as the world's only universal forum for co-operation. Globalisation does have a flip-side. Markets need rules and regulations to function effectively; they require stable and orderly environments. The UN's pursuit of universal values "helps create the necessary underpinning for markets to develop in a global economy."

A global economy needs global regimes. The UN, for example, becomes the ultimate forum to set out norms on global warming. The Law of the Sea convention drew up the rules for seabed mining before the technology existed, creating a secure legal framework for investors.

In stressing the importance of markets and the free flow of goods, the UN is returning to its founding principles. They were driven primarily by Cordell Hull, the US secretary of state at the time, who argued that buoyant trade relations were conducive to peace. In contrast, high tariffs, trade barriers and unfair economic competition were breeding grounds for conflict. With America the lone superpower, it is no coincidence that the UN increasingly reflects the liberal economic principles that the US brought to bear on the creation of the organisation.

UNDER Mr Annan — the American choice for the secretary-general of the UN — the organisation is embarking on a series of initiatives to flesh out the grand talk of common interests. Unctad, the UN trade and development group, is organising a meeting in Lyon in October 1998. Already, the UN Development Programme and the World Bank are working together with State Street Bank from Boston on the "money matters" initiative, designed to channel money from mutual funds into emerging markets.

From this month's meeting with the International Chamber of Commerce, the UN and the ICC agreed that Unctad should prepare a series of investment guides to the least-developed countries with the co-operation of the ICC.

Mr Annan's initiative amounts to a rub shoulders with the UN and business: we will provide you with the prestige of the organisation as long as you help the world's poorest countries. While it supports the growth of markets, the UN also plays an important role in reminding business that the global marketplace can only work effectively if it addresses inherent shortcomings and contradictions.

In warnings similar to those made by George Soros, the billionaire investor, and Peter Sutherland, chairman of Goldman Sachs and BP, Mr Annan has pointed out that market capitalism has no major ideological rival. Its biggest threat is from within.

"If it cannot promote both prosperity and justice, it will not have succeeded," he said.

Fines in the post for late taxpayers

Steve Busfield

PENALTY notices will be posted tomorrow to more than three quarters of a million taxpayers who missed the new self-assessment deadline.

The Inland Revenue could not more than £100 million from the failure to observe the deadline. Tagged up by a huge publicity campaign featuring cartoon character Hector the Inspector.

The January 31 cut-off for forms was missed by 810,000 taxpayers, 70,000 partnerships and 30,000 trusts.

Individuals face a fixed £100 fine and partnerships the same amount per partner. There will also be an interest charge of 9.5 per cent per annum on the unpaid tax.

Further fines will be charged if taxpayers miss a second deadline in July. Not all taxpayers who filed



Hector: No more a Mr Nice Guy from the Treasury

late will be subject to the automatic fine. Those who owe less than £100 will see their fine reduced to the amount of tax outstanding. Anyone who should have received a form but was sent one after the end of October has three months to complete and return it before they are subject to a penalty.

Financial Secretary to the Treasury Dawn Primarolo said that taxpayers who had merely made an oversight in their returns would not face a fine if those returns were corrected and sent back to the Revenue by February 11.

Self-assessment is likely to become an increasingly controversial issue as large numbers of complaints about fines are expected.

Fines for late filing will be added to the payments due from the taxpayers.

Taxpayers who feel they have been unfairly treated can appeal, but they must do so within 30 days of the date of the penalty notice.

The Inland Revenue wants anyone who is appealing to pay the penalty to avoid unnecessary interest charges — a successful appeal will result in the penalty being repaid.

Penalty notices are due to arrive at taxpayers' homes later this week.

Gas regulator turns off door-to-door sales firm

Celia Weston
Industrial Correspondent

CONTROVERSY about high-pressure, dubious doorstep-selling techniques by companies battling for a share of the domestic gas market erupted again over the weekend when the industry watchdog, Ofgas, suspended an agency operating in the Midlands.

It follows reports in a Birmingham newspaper yesterday of the experiences of a reporter who took a job with the agent, Utilities Limited, to sell gas supply contracts for Newcastle-based energy company Northern Electric.

Whatever the findings, the issue of vulnerable consumers being duped into signing contracts will remain high on the list of consumer organisation concerns as the next stages of competition are introduced across England and Wales between this week and April 24. A further 3 million customers will be given the right to switch away from former monopoly supplier British Gas.

Research released today shows that consumers, worried about how to secure the best deal, want supermarkets whose reward card they carry to link up with energy companies to market alternative gas and electricity supplies. Tie-ups with credit card companies are the next most popular option. Supermarket chain Tesco was this month the first to conclude such a deal when it secured a tie-up

with Energi, a supply division of the North-west power company, Norweb.

Research organisation MarketLine International says that, while differences between many suppliers are expected to be minimal, domestic markets will be driven predominantly by price differentials and service quality. Alliances with non-utility companies "can aid customer acquisition and retention, as well as strengthen the brand of the supplier."

Supermarket chains were ideal candidates because they were visited regularly by most of the population and had loyalty schemes which provided customer databases and the means for joint marketing initiatives.

Lloyd's List goes it alone

Ken King

LLOYD'S of London Press, publisher of Britain's oldest national daily newspaper, Lloyd's List, is to float on the stock market later this year in a move likely to make paper millionaires of four of its directors.

Lloyd's List, which deals with the shipping industry, was first published in 1734.

With other publications in the group, it is expected to be valued at about £150 million, although the company has not yet revealed an official figure. That values the directors' stake, plus that of 320 of LLP's 540 staff, at around £37.5 million. The rest is owned by

venture capitalists 3i, NatWest Ventures and Mercury Asset Management.

LLP was set up in 1973 as subsidiary of Lloyd's of London to produce internal research and publications.

When Lloyd's reorganised itself after the "reinsurance spiral" that almost destroyed the market, the business was sold to its management in December 1995 for £22.5 million.

Since then, the company's debt has been cut and LLP has expanded into commercial, legal and financial information through a series of small acquisitions. Last year, a LLP snapped up Mediastore, a LLP contract publisher of promotional handbooks for port and airport authorities.

Agent offers ticket to truth

Celia Weston

IN RECENT years holiday brochures have taken over from estate agents as the best source of campaigners for truth and accuracy in promotional literature.

Now that everyone knows "a period country cottage in need of some modernisation" means a semi-detached in the middle of nowhere, the obfuscators have been forced to migrate to pastures new, and take up writing travel blurbs.

But holidaymakers, it appears, are rebelling, as did their house-buying colleagues before them.

More than half those asked in a recent survey had been disappointed by a package holiday which failed to live up to their expectations. And, of that unhappy percentage, seven out of 10 blamed the brochure description.

The Co-op travel agent, 250-branch Travelcare, is today introducing a policy called "the traveller's right to know", making use of "truth books" which reveal all about destinations worldwide, but are usually kept under the counter.

Travelcare will require all its branches to offer their customers access to these frank, objective, independent assessments of

resorts and accommodation.

The agency has pledged to compile end-of-term reports on tour operator holidays, based on consumer views, to answer environmental and social questions about resorts and to publish a series of jargon-busting leaflets.

So, if you read that a resort has "grown explosively", beware. That means it is suffering from a disastrous lack of planning. Or, if the brochure describes a hotel as "unpretentious", it means that it is a standard package hotel which has not kept up with demands for higher standards at low prices.

Texas does deal with watchdog

This week

14 SPORTS NEWS

FA Carling Premiership

Arsenal (0) 1 **Bolton Wanderers** (0) 1
Crystal Palace (0) 0 **West Ham United** (0) 1

Manager	Manager
Olson	Olson
Kovacs	Kovacs
Grimsdale	Grimsdale
Upson	Upson
Verza	Verza
Platt	Platt
Vieira	Vieira
Wagman	Wagman
Boa Morte	Boa Morte
Anelka	Anelka
Brooks	Brooks
Dyer	Dyer
Rodger	Rodger
Fulford	Fulford
Roberts	Roberts
Gordon	Gordon
Henderson	Henderson
Edwards	Edwards
Isaacs	Isaacs
Miller	Miller

Coventry City (0) 1 **Leicester City** (1) 2
Barnsley (0) 0 **Chelsea** (0) 0

Manager	Manager
Hedman	Hedman
Taffer	Taffer
Dillon	Dillon
Breen	Breen
Burrows	Burrows
Nilsson	Nilsson
Seaton	Seaton
Solovtsov	Solovtsov
Whelan	Whelan
Moldovan	Moldovan
Blackburn	Blackburn
Forrest	Forrest
Ward	Ward
Sturman	Sturman
Bosnjak	Bosnjak
Redfern	Redfern
Butt	Butt
Jones	Jones
Markstedt	Markstedt
Moses	Moses
Eaden	Eaden
Watson	Watson

Manchester United (1) 2 **Newcastle United** (0) 1
Derby County (0) 0 **Leeds United** (0) 1

Manager	Manager
Schmeichel	Schmeichel
G. Neville	G. Neville
Berg	Berg
Palfrey	Palfrey
Beckham	Beckham
P. Neville	P. Neville
Butt	Butt
Giggs	Giggs
Cole	Cole
Storrie	Storrie
Wendie	Wendie
Sturridge	Sturridge
Balant	Balant
Gracie	Gracie
Carley	Carley
C. Powell	C. Powell
Duffy	Duffy
Stimac	Stimac
Rowett	Rowett
Poon	Poon

Sheffield Wednesday (1) 1 **Southampton** (1) 3
Tottenham Hotspur (0) 0 **Blackburn Rovers** (0) 0

Manager	Manager
Priseman	Priseman
Haines	Haines
Newson	Newson
Walker	Walker
Hinchcliffe	Hinchcliffe
Hyde	Hyde
Flack	Flack
Pennington	Pennington
Di Canio	Di Canio
Carbone	Carbone
Glavin	Glavin
Armstrong	Armstrong
Holton	Holton
Berti	Berti
Hovells	Hovells
Edinburgh	Edinburgh
Campbell	Campbell
Goldsworthy	Goldsworthy
Carroll	Carroll

Wimbledon (2) 2 **Aston Villa** (1) 1

Manager	Manager
Swain	Swain
Perry	Perry
Blackwell	Blackwell
Thatcher	Thatcher
Ardley	Ardley
Fear	Fear
Jones	Jones
Goyle	Goyle
Leadbetter	Leadbetter
Boal	Boal
Mitrovic	Mitrovic
Cutmore	Cutmore
Melson	Melson
Grayson	Grayson
Taylor	Taylor
Joachim	Joachim
Wright	Wright
Southgate	Southgate
Edwards	Edwards
Scarsdale	Scarsdale
Bosnich	Bosnich

Referees table

Referee	Games	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Wright	14	6	2.7	2.7
Reed	14	6	2.7	2.7
Fuller	14	6	2.7	2.7
Reed	14	6	2.7	2.7
Reed	14	6	2.7	2.7
Reed	14	6	2.7	2.7
Reed	14	6	2.7	2.7
Reed	14	6	2.7	2.7
Reed	14	6	2.7	2.7
Reed	14	6	2.7	2.7

Top supporters

Team	Supporters
Arsenal	15,470
Manchester United	15,470
Liverpool	15,470
Chelsea	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,470
Blackburn	15,470
Derby	15,470
Sheff Wed	15,470
Southampton	15,470
Wolves	15,470
Leeds	15,



Foiling before failing... Leeds' keeper Nigel Martyn thwarts Alan Shearer before his late error handed Newcastle a point at St James' Park

PHOTOGRAPH BY OWEN HUMPHREYS

Newcastle United 1, Leeds United 1

Martyn falls from saving grace

Michael Walker

MEN called Nigel Martyn make unlikely heroes and villains. But one of that name, Mr Nigel Martyn, goalkeeper of Leeds United and England, was both at St James' Park yesterday.

Having kept Newcastle United and Alan Shearer in particular at bay with two superb, acrobatic saves — the second only a minute before Rod Wallace's magnificent volley looked as if it would bring Leeds all three points — Martyn dived to collect what he later described as a "routine" shot from the substitute Temuri Ketsbala.

However, as the dribbling ball reached Martyn, the Leeds keeper inexplicably let it slip through his grasp. There were two minutes left. Ketsbala likes a bit of drama, and this was only his first touch after replacing Keith Gillespie, but his celebrations were muted compared to his legendary performance against Bolton five weeks ago. He must have been in shock.

Everybody else was, too, although it was Newcastle's good fortune that at the other end Shay Given remained focused; he had to make a fingertip save from Bruno Ribeiro as the game headed towards injury time.

That late action, though, camouflaged a match of indifferent quality — at times the

stadium was as quiet as a Sunday afternoon in February — laced with niggly physical battles usually involving David Baty.

But afterwards it was Shearer whom George Graham singled out for criticism, accusing him of "almost an assault" on Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink every time Leeds had a corner.

"It was unbelievable," said the Leeds manager. "It happened every time. How the referee missed it, I don't know. We should have had three or four penalties."

Graham was nearly as unhappy with his keeper, responding to the statement "You can hardly blame Nigel" with "You can blame him. He made a mistake. If he doesn't

hold his hands up, I'll do it for him."

His first involvement had been of a very different nature — getting the deftest but most effective of deflections on a rising 17th-minute drive from Shearer that rebounded off the crossbar when it would have been bulging the back of the net otherwise.

At that stage, Newcastle were showing a vitality recently missing. The supplier of the pass to Shearer was Andreas Andersson, who, since his £3.6 million arrival from Milan, has not only given them much-needed shape. His willingness to receive and dart away has brought a second dimension to Newcastle's predictable attacking ploy of sending Gilles-

pie down the right and praying his cross delivers on its promise.

Quite often, this is not the case although seven minutes before half time one Gillespie surge resulted in a full-dil volley from Andersson that flashed by Martyn's post. But Newcastle were unable to build on these flourishes, clinging to a narrow lead.

Robert Molenaar, that figure with the build of an all-in wrestler, stood out with a display that would have pleased Kendo Nagasaki.

Molenaar was in that half of the Leeds team not in Gary Williams' notebook by the end, and how Baty stayed out of it until the 61st minute is anybody's guess.

Baty's two-footed lunge at Halls turned out to be the prelude to Wallace's goal. Hasselbaink had already given notice with a hat-trick of shots shortly after the interval, and when the Dutchman broke down Newcastle's left after Baty's yellow card, he centred to Wallace.

A useful cross suddenly became deadly when Wallace somehow conjured a volley as powerful as it was skilful.

With eight minutes to go, Leeds must have thought the game was won. But then came a hero by the name of Temuri, and he was making plans for Nigel.

"I'm very disappointed," Martyn said. "I've cost the lads two points. This is believed to be known as holding your hands up."

Manchester United 2, Derby County 0

Champions look for Monte Carlo rally

Ian Ross sees Alex Ferguson's men gain an easy victory but finds the manner of it hardly in keeping with their grand obsession

FOR those who would like to see Manchester United win the Champions League this season — and there are many who would — rather than they did not result have become something of an irrelevance lately.

In the red strongholds liberally scattered across the kingdom, it is almost taken for granted that they will retain the Premiership. Indeed, one suspects their closest rivals will see to that.

No, the grand obsession remains a return to the pinnacle of European football and at the moment the understandable temptation is to regard games such as Saturday's as nothing more than preparation for next month's quarter-final meet-

ing with the French champions Monaco.

On that basis this was not the best of afternoons for England's finest. They won, but the manner of their victory held little comfort.

United's manager Alex Ferguson mumbled all the right things afterwards about commitment and effort, but he made no attempt to try to describe a sows' ear of a match as a silk purse.

"It wasn't a brilliant performance by any means but sometimes you have to carve out what we did today," said Ferguson.

His rather sombre mood was perfectly understandable because, shortly after

he had been informed that Ryan Giggs would be inactive for two or possibly three weeks after damaging a hamstring, he had been asked to appraise a game which boasted all the competitive edge of a testimonial match.

"He'll miss the Monaco game, which is bad news and how to us. We will just have to find another way of playing," he said. With Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, and Paul Scholes also injured, United's starting line-up for Wednesday's FA Cup replay at Barnsley should make interesting reading.

Giggs, until his muscles tightened and his face creased in pain 12 minutes from the end, had been outstanding, lacerating the

Derby defence with a series of spirited runs and opening the scoring early on when he arrived at the far post to knock in Andy Cole's cross.

But some of Giggs's teammates did not fare quite so well. As Glenn Hoddle begins his laborious process of fine-tuning the England squad for the World Cup, the lobbying on behalf of favoured sons fallen on hard times has opened in earnest.

Last week, a couple of United players even suggested that Hoddle would be guilty of something akin to betrayal were he to head for France without Gary Pallister.

The towering central-defender with the dodgy back has moved from the England mainstream to the backwaters recently, the victim of advancing years and the resurrection of the theory that centre-backs

should be capable of contributing something more aesthetically appealing than a thumping tackle.

He really could have done without having to stand toe-to-toe with Paulo Wanchope because the Costa Rican delights in embarrassing his markers.

But one Wanchope does not a team make and, while Derby's careful, studious proceedings at the soft underbelly of United's defence often threatened to pay dividends, they were comprehensively outplayed for long periods.

There was a pleasing fluidity about some of the champions' football, their often threatened to pay dividends, they were comprehensively outplayed for long periods.

Had Cole not spent the opening half of a chaotic and well-mannered game trying to convince Hoddle that he



Pallister... toe-to-toe battle

Arsenal 1, Crystal Palace 0

Wenger savours brut reserve

Martin Thorpe

AT this stage of a long season, when even the best-ghostrated sides are showing signs of wear and tear, the ultimate destination of the silverware and wooden spoons is often influenced not by the quality of the football but by the quality of the reserves.

In that respect this result said little more than that Arsenal can cope better with replacing nine missing first-teamers than Crystal Palace can with five, which given Arsenal's superior resources is no surprise.

But despite the devalued currency on view, this predictable disjointed and low-class game held rich significance for both teams' season.

The victory kept Arsenal's title pursuit alive, for they still trail Manchester United by only nine points with two games in hand. That translates into a prospective gap of three points instead of five or six had Arsenal not won on Saturday. Then again, given the title aura which currently surrounds United, maybe we are talking here only about the difference between a chasm and a gorge.

Palace too are struggling to bridge a gap — in their case the gulf between the top of the First Division and the bottom of the Premiership. Eight days ago Palace battled to an optimistic 0-0 FA Cup draw at Highbury, to set up Wednesday's fifth-round replay.

But this defeat takes their league tally to a depressing one win in 12 games and only a major re-financing of the club following Mark Goldberg's mooted takeover on Tuesday looks capable of offering any realistic long-term hope to supporters.

But for Steve Coppell, too, this has been a frustrating season. He bought the quality

Wimbledon 2, Aston Villa 1

Little room for manoeuvre as Villa subside

Mark Redding

ASTON VILLA are in big trouble. This was their second defeat in a week in the league, their third in a row including the FA Cup disappointment against Coventry City, and the way the team are playing they have relegation running through them like the writing in a stick of rock.

"We have got to start winning games very quickly," their captain Gareth Southgate said as his team continued to slide down the table. "We are looking for at least four victories to get us out of trouble, starting with Liverpool on Saturday."

Four wins would take Villa to 42 points, the accepted safety target in the Premiership. But that is easier said than done for Brian Little's men, for whom the next three

weeks will be critical. After hosting Liverpool at Villa Park they visit Atletico Madrid in the UEFA Cup — a conundrum which has at least given them the opportunity to raise their game — then meet Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, followed by two relegation six-pointers at home to their fellow strugglers Barnsley and Crystal Palace. And to think that last August they were being tipped as title contenders.

"It's difficult to stand here and talk logically about where it all went wrong," said Southgate. "After four straight defeats at the beginning of the season we found it difficult to season we found it difficult to pick things up. But there is no point in sitting down and feeling sorry for ourselves — we have just got to get on with it."

Wimbledon were probably the last team Southgate and Co needed to meet, especially

without Dwight Yorke, their injured leading scorer, and following on from an exhausting midweek defeat by Manchester United.

Villa were knocked about in time-honoured fashion as Wimbledon booted the ball down the pitch for their muscle-bound forwards to lunge at, and the visitors' film of confidence quickly evaporated after Jason Euell scored with only 10 minutes on the clock. Carl Lasburn headed a second after 39 minutes and the game was over.

Savo Milosevic did get a goal back four minutes from half-time. But when he was chopped down by Duncan Jupp in the 52nd minute and had to depart with damaged knee ligaments, any Villa threat departed with him. Little faces his own threat tomorrow night in front of a shareholders' meeting.

Bolton Wanderers 1, West Ham United 1

Hartson proves true to his uncool type

George Cauldron

JOHN HARTSON has been jaffing against what he sees as unfair typecasting for months now. He says he has been pigeon-holed as a bad boy because of a few indiscretions last season — there were 12 actually, all yellow and card-shaped — and he asks for a fresh look at the evidence. He has mellowed, he claims.

But reputations are harder to shake off than a dose of the winter sniffles. Though he has scored 19 goals in West Ham's continuing push for a place in Europe and has not missed a match through suspension, he called the referee Mike Reed a "home" and on Saturday was sent off for violent conduct.

When on top of his game Hartson represents a formidable force, towering in the air,

physical in the extreme. Without the aggression he may as well be a kitten on stilts but he remains incapable of channeling it.

He has scored only once in West Ham's last 10 Premiership games and against Bolton on Saturday displayed little inclination to break that sequence. One deflected shot and a free header apart, there had been nothing to write home about in the opening 55 minutes, but Hartson then made sure the mud would stick by cuffing Per Frandsen under the face. If his previous attempts at accuracy offer a reliable guide, he was probably aiming for the gut.

He is not alone in suffering from a bad rap. Harry Redknapp admitted the offence but added archly: "If anyone was going to be involved, it had to be Pollock."

Jamie Pollock, all mouth

and elbows, had been elsewhere at the time and Redknapp later apologised. He still described the Bolton midfielder as "off his rocker."

Similarly Eyal Berkovic can now expect to be abused the length and breadth of the nation after appearing to tumble too easily. The chants of "cheer" were still ringing in the ears when he slid a through-ball to Trevor Sinclair, who took it beyond Chris Patriciou to score.

West Ham then spurred an inviting chance to seal the win when Berkovic put Frank Lampard a parried shot wide.

But five minutes from time the Bolton substitute Arnar Gunnlaugsson tore up the pitch, bamboozled Ian Pearce and crossed for Nathan Blake to head home. Bolton were brave but their typecasting as relegation fodder is another that does not look misplaced.

While Ian Wright, David Seaman, Steve Bould, Emmanuel Petit and Ray Parlour are all relatively long-term absentees, Adams and Overmars will return for Wednesday's game, probably with Bergkamp and Nigel Winterburn (foot), though Anelka and Grimandi are now doubtful because of injuries sustained on Saturday.

However, thanks to Gilles Grimandi's first goal for the club, a lovely looping shot on the turn, Arsenal are still the championship hot. And for that the reserves can only be praised.

